

12 TOP WEBSITES for TRACING IRISH ANCESTORS

# familytree magazine

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JULY/AUGUST 2015

## DECODE YOUR DNA RESULTS

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RESCUE YOUR PHOTOS!  
Easy Ways to Archive  
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3 Ancestral Myths—  
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+ Complete Guide to Old Draft Records

+ 5 Websites to Share Family History

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july/august 2015 • volume 16, issue 4



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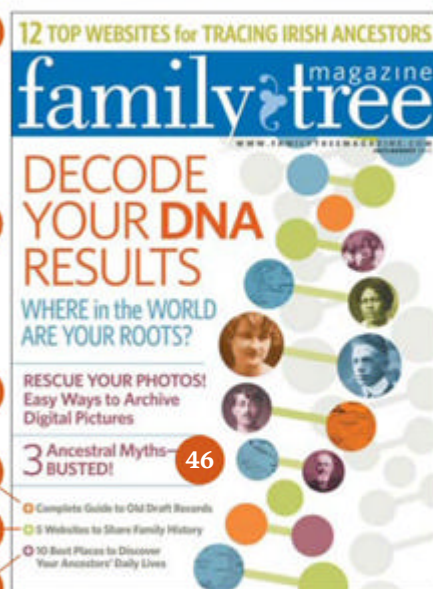
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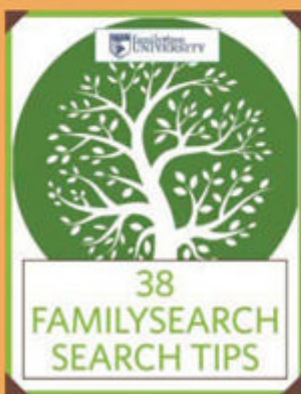


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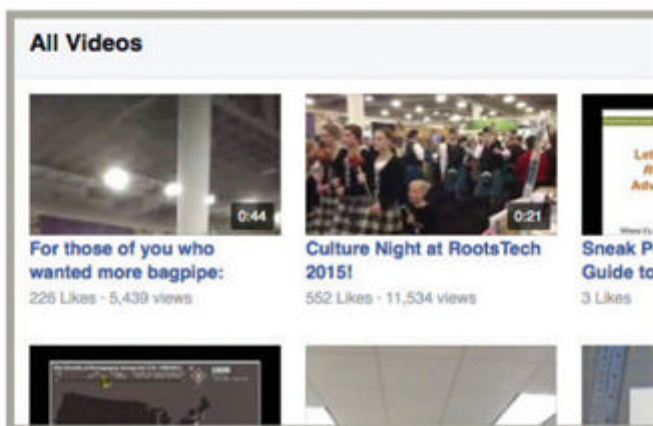
The free genealogy website FamilySearch.org <[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)> is a top online resource with more than 3.5 billion names in searchable databases, and millions of digitized records. Get tricks, hints and hacks to unlock new discoveries on FamilySearch.org with our free e-book download <[ftu.familytreemagazine.com/38-familysearch-search-tips-find-free-genealogy-records-online](http://ftu.familytreemagazine.com/38-familysearch-search-tips-find-free-genealogy-records-online)>.



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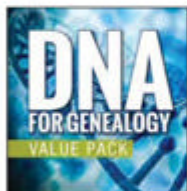
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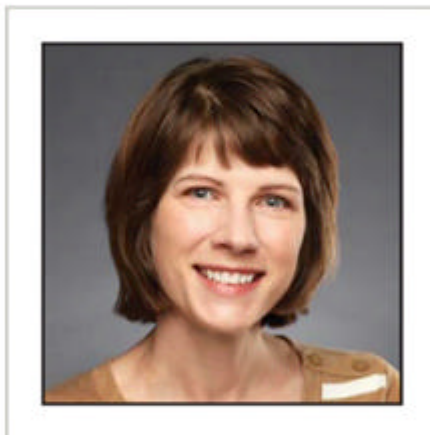
## If the Genes Fit

🦋 **ACCORDING TO MY** research in genealogical records, I'm 25 percent Lebanese, 12.5 percent Irish, 6.25 percent English, and the rest German (56.25 percent).

The autosomal DNA test I took a couple of months ago says I'm 28 percent Italian/Greek, 18 percent Scandinavian, 15 percent Irish, 11 percent "Europe East," 11 percent "Europe West," 9 percent West Asian and 5 percent British, along with a total of 3 percent from several trace regions.

Those ethnicity results didn't surprise me, though, mostly because I'd already read our article on understanding autosomal DNA maps (page 20). The west and east European, and even the Scandinavian, come from my many Germans. The Italian, Greek and West Asian are from my Lebanese great-grandparents.

But here's what my test doesn't tell me: where in Ireland my Norris third-great-grandparents came from or where in England my third-great-grandfather Thomas Frost was born. Whether Teresa (Seeger) Kolbeck of Covington, Ky., is the same person as Teresa Seeger, sister of my German immigrant second-great-grandfather. Or what became of my third-great-grandmother Elizabeth



Teipel, or pretty much anything about my great-grandmother Mary Ganem.

I fervently hope the test will find matches that point my search for answers in some productive direction. But unless I get lucky and match someone who's done a lot of research into one of those lines, my DNA test won't cause the answers to just leap out at me.

Some test-takers have made enlightening and completely surprising genealogy discoveries simply by spitting into a tube. Maybe you will, too. For most of us, though, genetic genealogy is a new truth-finding tool to use in concert with the ones we already know. ■

*Diane F. Haddad*

### DIANE'S TOP 3 TIPS from this issue

- 1 Records generated when an Irish ancestor died—obituaries, tombstones, burial records, funeral home records—can be helpful in determining his place of origin.
- 2 Genetic genealogy is a rapidly changing field. Reading experts' blogs can help you keep up with new developments.
- 3 Find a local living history destination by searching the web for "living history" near plus the name of the city or state.

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How to Find Your Family History on the  
World's Largest Free Genealogy Website

Dana McCullough

## YOUR STORY Friends Forever

Nancy Candella and Nancy Hughes met at Del Webb Lake Providence Genealogy Club in Mt. Juliet, Tenn., about 2011. Candella and her husband moved to the area from Robertson County—Tennesseans born and bred. Hughes and her husband moved east from California, where they both grew up.

Both Nancys had already done extensive family history research and shared their passion at meetings of the genealogy club. In fact, they hit it off so well that their husbands, Leon and Ernie, were enlisted in the friendship. The foursome has shared many meals together, as well as searches for grave-stones and genealogical records.

Candella recently came across an old photograph of a group on the steps of a building. It was labeled “After Sunday Dinner at the W.F. Maddox House,” and taken in Denison, Texas, in 1908. Maddox is one of her family surnames, and



Friends and genealogy buffs Nancy Candella (top, left) and Nancy Hughes hold the old family photo that led to their discovery of their ancestors' friendship.

most of the people in the back two rows are Maddoxes, according to the caption. The other folks in the 100-year-old photo were noted as Ashburns—which happens to be one of Hughes' family names. Candella showed her friend the photo, and the two began researching whether their family members were indeed pictured together.

And they were. In fact, the Nancys discovered that the Maddox and Ashburn families called each other best friends and married each other. Some members are even buried in the same Texas cemetery. Some Maddoxes had moved from Tennessee to Texas, and the Ashburn family had migrated from Virginia, to Alabama, to an entirely different part of Tennessee and finally, to Texas—where the two families met and developed their friendship.

And here we are more than 100 years later, and the two lines have come full circle back to Tennessee and resulted in yet another “best friends” story.

Kathy Wheeler » Mt. Juliet, Tenn.

“ More than 100 years later, the two lines have come full circle back to Tennessee, and resulted in another “best friends” story.”

## ✉ Postcard Clues

In the May/June 2015 *Family Tree Magazine*, contributor Maureen A. Taylor gave information on dating early 20th-century real-photo postcards (“Hidden in Plain Sight”).

Another useful source is the dating table in the appendix of the 1981 book *Prairie Fires and Paper Moons: The American Photographic Postcard 1900-1920* by Hal Morgan and Andreas Brown (David R. Godine). The postcard photos in the rest of the book are great fun, too.

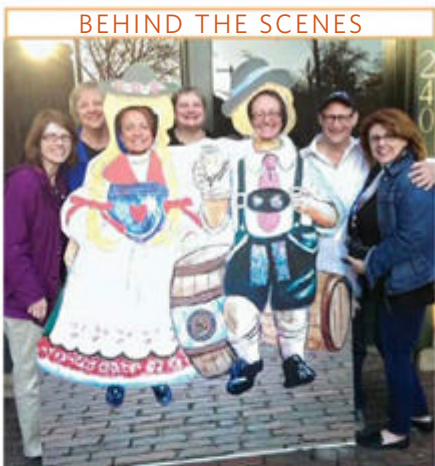
Paula Lester » Mt. Shasta, Calif.

## ✉ Tool Time

The January 2015 *Family Tree Magazine* has an excellent article by Rick Crume, “Power Tools,” outlining the many web-based aids and tools for the genealogist. It's specific enough to direct you to the resource, but brief enough to allow you to zero in on the tool that is best for your current research problems.

However, because it's directed at tools that are web-based or web-linked, it misses some excellent tools, especially for the careful genealogist.

One tool that I feel should have been included is the excellent Reunion genealogy software <[www.leisterpro.com](http://www.leisterpro.com)>. Although this program is limited to



## BEHIND THE SCENES

While attending the Ohio Genealogical Society Conference <[www.ogs.org](http://www.ogs.org)>, April 9-11 in Columbus, *Family Tree Magazine* contributors celebrated their German heritage with schnitzel and cream puffs at the legendary, 129-year-old Schmidt's Sausage Haus <[www.schmidthaus.com](http://www.schmidthaus.com)> in the city's German Village.



## FACEBOOK FAN MAIL

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE NAME IN YOUR FAMILY TREE?

Petronella Sungailia » **Kris Martinaitis**

Terrell Glenn Timmermann—all those double consonants in print are mesmerizing. » **Connie Blanton**

Pauline Ann Mihalic, my wife. » **John Sweeney**

Quixanna Tennessee Sims » **Vicki Irvin Griffin**

Hyacinthe Flower (male). The whole generation has flower names ... Rose, Iris, Lily, etc. » **Betty Moren**

Julius Caesar Waddle Dood » **Dorothy Bland**

Riley Smiley » **Heather Freytag**

Kunagunda Czystczon » **Joyce Julkowski Holt**

The surname Pickleheimer » **Lisa Manley Lanciano**

My great-grandfather, Nimrod Napoleon Hunt. » **Dianne Goode Young**

Hatevil Nutter » **Penny Rohrbach Stratton**

Blazer Handwerk » **Kathy Goldner Munson**

How about Cincinnatus Flower Graves, my great-great-grandfather? » **Zelda Emery Monical**

Orange Marker. Early 1900s. » **Bonny Long**

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Mac computers, it has an excellent set of features including charts, and allows the genealogist to provide copies of specific genealogies to family members who have an iPhone or iPad.

To some, the fact that it doesn't link directly to Ancestry.com <[ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)> or FamilySearch.org <[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)> is a minus. But I find this "limitation" provides the discipline every genealogist must have to not make the easy addition to his or her family tree. My experience with online genealogies has shown me that they must be confirmed by one's own research. I hope some future article will give Reunion the recommendation it deserves.

**O. Ray Pardo** » Manchester, Wash.



### Family Tree Magazine To Go

I've finally come up with a way to find the articles I need from issues of *Family Tree Magazine*. I've subscribed for at least 15 years, and I've kept dozens of issues. Recently I hit on the idea of taking the issues apart and scanning the articles into my computer that I want to use for reference. I have a folder called "*Family Tree Magazine Resources*," and subfolders for such topics as Website Tutorials, Archiving, Photo Information, etc.

Now when I'm out and about (always with a laptop) and find something, I can open the tutorial or other information and get what I need right away.

## PHOTO FUN

There's lending support to a friend who needs it, and then there's ... whatever's going on in this picture. Join our Facebook fans in the photo-captioning fun at <[www.facebook.com/familytreemagazine](http://www.facebook.com/familytreemagazine)>.



*Weekend at Bernie's:  
The Prequel.*

» **Kerry Scott**

He ain't heavy, he's my brother.

» **Robert McHardy**

Planking: We thought of it first in 1914.

» **Lyn Gnló**

Thanks, *Family Tree Magazine*, for such an informative and helpful magazine.

**Beverly Gratteau Douglas** »

via Facebook

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## TALK TO US

We'd love to hear your research stories, family memories and thoughts about this issue. Email [ftmedit@fwmedia.com](mailto:ftmedit@fwmedia.com) or leave us a note on Facebook <[www.facebook.com/familytreemagazine](http://www.facebook.com/familytreemagazine)>. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

# Have Ancestors, Will Travel

Despite a multitude of online resources, family history isn't becoming an armchair-only hobby. Why not?

**A FEW YEARS** ago, University of Illinois Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism professor Carla Santos described “genealogy tourists” as a fast-growing segment of leisure travelers. They aren't looking for a relaxing getaway, she said, at least not in the traditional beaches-and-shopping sort of way. Instead, they're tourists in search of their own stories.

After interviewing visitors to the Genealogy Center <[www.genealogycenter.org](http://www.genealogycenter.org)> at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Ind., Santos described them as searching for a “generational sense of the self.”

“It starts at home, where they learn everything they can online,” she says. “Then they want the tactile experience of research, of going to the library to learn more. The next step is to experience places the family comes from and get a sense of what their lives may have been like. They may even travel to that homeland.”



Two of the top US genealogy research destinations, the Genealogy Center and the Family History Library (FHL) <[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)> in Salt Lake City, count a half million annual visitors between them. Host communities welcome these guests with services: In Fort Wayne, where the indirect economic impact of genealogy is an estimated \$6.3 million a year, donors and taxpayers support the Genealogy Center. In Independence, Mo., the Midwest Genealogy Center <[www.mymcpl.org/genealogy](http://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy)> partners with the local tourism bureau to market to researchers and entertain their nongenealogist travel partners. Genealogy destinations also inspire businesses such as Ann-

Mar Genealogy Trips <[www.genealogytrips.com](http://www.genealogytrips.com)> and Ancestor Seekers <[www.ancestorseekers.com](http://www.ancestorseekers.com)>, which offer research guidance and trip planning. Experts publish guidebooks such as the free e-books *The Chart Chick Insider's Guide to Salt Lake City* by Janet Hovorka <[familychartmasters.com/slc](http://familychartmasters.com/slc)> and *Finding Ancestors in Fort Wayne* by Harold Henderson <[www.midwestroots.net](http://www.midwestroots.net)>.

Genealogy conferences let family historians couple on-site research with education and networking. The FHL helped draw 20,000 registered attendees to the RootsTech/Federation of Genealogical Societies joint conference <[www.rootstech.org](http://www.rootstech.org)> in Salt Lake City in February. Conference planners routinely work with local repositories and hotels to arrange entertainment options and special rates.

A lucky few family historians cruise in high style—literally—on trips such as this summer's Federation for

## Where would you travel to learn more about your heritage?



I'd go to Ukraine. My grandmother escaped the Russian Revolution under the cover of night using

someone else's travel documents.  
**Genevieve Sapir » Washington, DC**



I'd visit Palestine. But I'd want to see the Palestine my grandparents knew, not the one from which my

father was so violently expelled.  
**Janine Zayed » South Euclid, Ohio**



I had family sail from England to Australia to the United States. I'd love to learn more about where they

lived in Australia.  
**Justin Baker » Gates Mills, Ohio**



Genealogical Societies Alaskan cruise <[www.fgsconference.org/cruise](http://www.fgsconference.org/cruise)>, which includes research classes at sea. You'll find a calendar of genealogy events like these, including state and regional options, at <[calendar.eogn.com](http://calendar.eogn.com)>.

Family historians are also among millions of Americans each year who visit historical and cultural sites such as Colonial Williamsburg <[www.history.org](http://www.history.org)> and Plimoth Plantation <[www.plimoth.org](http://www.plimoth.org)> to identify with the past.

Attractions that tell the stories of particular ethnic or cultural groups may also have archival collections for visitors researching the group. For example, the Cherokee Heritage Center <[www.cherokeeheritage.org](http://www.cherokeeheritage.org)> in Tahlequah, Okla., also houses the Cherokee Family Research Center, and Elk Horn, Iowa's, Museum of Danish America <[www.danishmuseum.org](http://www.danishmuseum.org)> has a genealogy center with research materials and translation services.

And thousands of folks each year—not just avid genealogists—jet off to ancestral homelands. Countries like Ireland—where an estimated 80 million people worldwide have roots—market themselves to those with ethnic connections there. Northern Ireland counts up to 20,000 annual visitors from overseas who participate in genealogical activities during their trips.

As a scholar of tourism trends, Dr. Santos sees ancestral homeland visits as the ultimate form of genealogy travel. "When people experience different things and places, they come back transformed," she says. "Genealogy is so personal that I imagine the transformative power of a trip like this is really great. Exploring, redefining and confirming our identities are life-long projects. This kind of genealogical travel gives us a practical way to think about belonging, home, heritage and identity." Online "armchair" genealogy doesn't substitute for this type of experience—it enables and facilitates it.

## 5 Questions With DICK DOHERTY



The owner-director of Celtic Quest <[www.celticquest.net](http://www.celticquest.net)>, a genealogy tourism service that provides guided research trips to Ireland, has been to the Emerald Isle 34 times. Here's what drives him.

### 1 How do you describe your relationship with Ireland?

I'm an American of Irish descent. I've always felt at home in Ireland—even on my first visit there.

### 2 How can someone with Irish roots get the best flavor of their homeland in one visit?

In my opinion, the best way is to travel along the Atlantic coast, visiting the small villages, enjoying an evening meal in a pub offering live Irish music, and spending the night in a bed and breakfast [and] talking with the proprietors.

### 3 What's the welcome like in Ireland?

If you're coming from America, they love you. On my early trips to find distant relatives, I thought it was strange that when people let me in their homes, they'd say "you're welcome" without me saying "thank you" first. Then I realized they were saying I was truly welcome as I entered their homes.

### 4 What do you enjoy about watching other Irish-Americans experience Ireland for the first time?

The sheer joy and elation at being in Ireland. Also, their feeling of comfort at having guided research help. I had a person last year who was struggling because she couldn't read the parish register she'd found. When I helped her, she realized she qualifies for Irish citizenship. She was in her 60s, I'd guess, and she was jumping up and down with happiness.

### 5 What's a great Irish genealogy resource that's generally found only in Ireland?

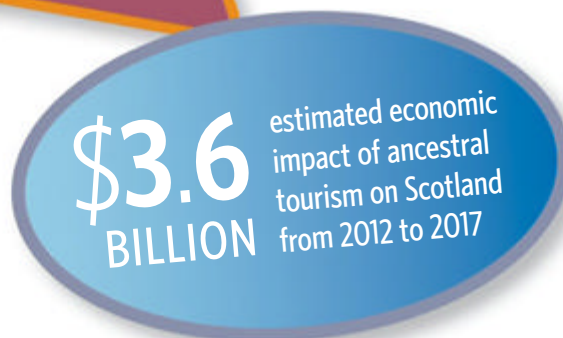
The original Valuation Office revision books, with each of the changes and the corresponding dates recorded in various colors. The Family History Library microfilms were scanned in black and white, and don't show the colors. Four Irish counties [have been digitized in color and] are available via the computers in the Valuation Office <[www.valoff.ie/en](http://www.valoff.ie/en)>. ■

#### READ MORE

of our interview with Dick Doherty on the Genealogy Insider blog <[bit.ly/genealogy-bonus-questions](http://bit.ly/genealogy-bonus-questions)>.



# GENEALOGY TOURISM BY THE NUMBERS



## Annual Genealogy Visitors

Family History Library,  
Salt Lake City: **390,000**

Mid-Continent Public Library,  
Independence, Mo.: **110,000**

Allen County Public Library,  
Fort Wayne, Ind.: **78,000**

Riverton FamilySearch Library, Utah: **42,000**

Clayton Library Center for Genealogical  
Research, Houston: **40,000 year**

## DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ Colonial Williamsburg has welcomed more than 100 million visitors since 1932, including at least nine US presidents.
- ★ Eleven percent of baby boomers planning international travel in 2015 will attend family reunions.

Sources: FamilySearch, Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center, Mid-Continent Public Library, Riverton FamilySearch Library, Clayton Library, <ohiotourism.osu.edu/content/heritage.htm>, <www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/arts/news/scotland-urged-to-refocus-on-genealogy-tourism-1-2658576>, <www.history.org/foundation/newsroom/faqs.cfm>, <statistica.com>



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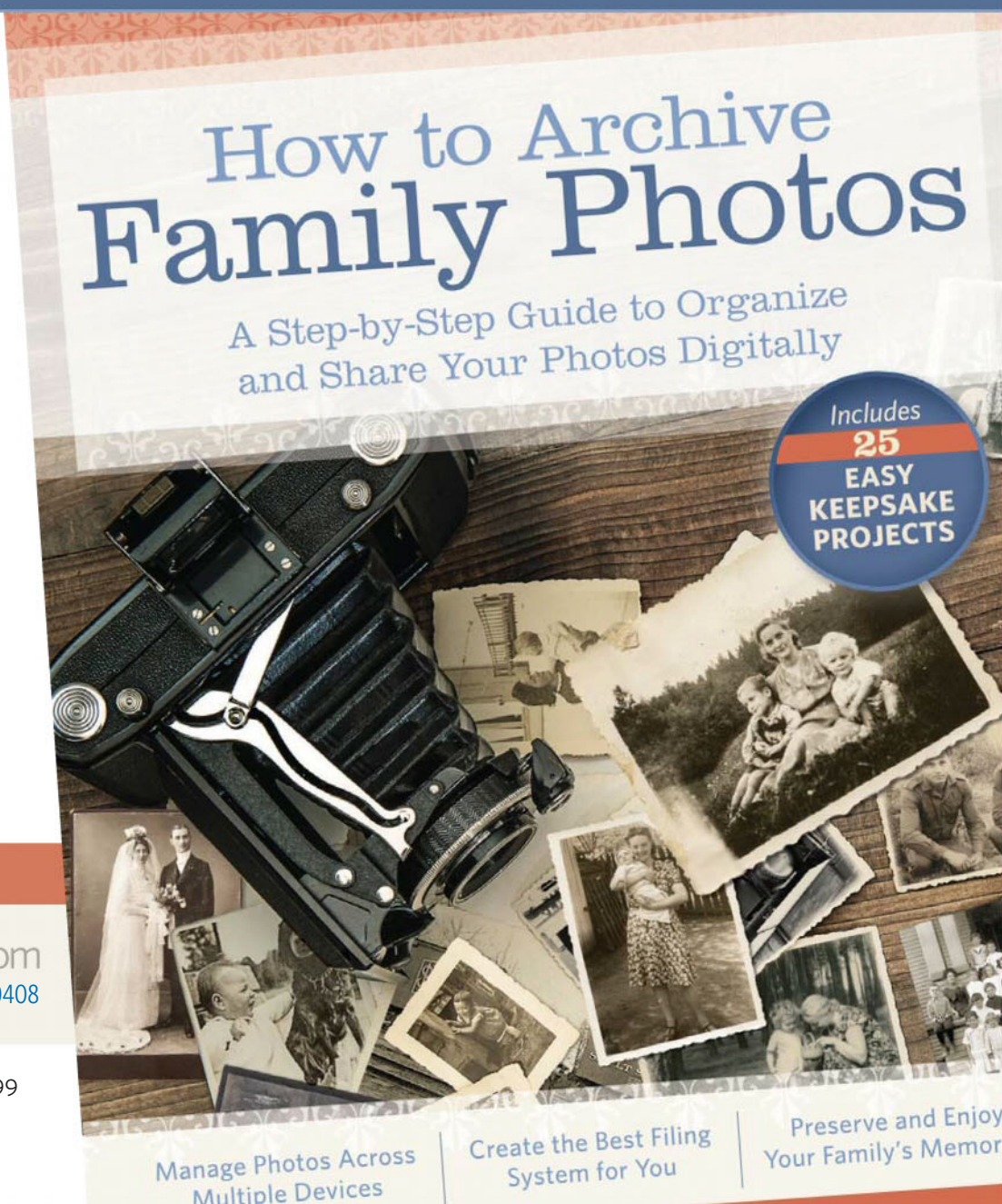
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## Let's Get Physical

🦁 **SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO**, the world of fitness and the lives of 97-pound weaklings everywhere were forever changed by an ad that began appearing in comic books, headlined “The Insult That Made a Man Out of Mac.” Created by Charles Roman for strongman Charles Atlas, the ad showed how the “Dynamic Tension” technique could keep skinny lads from getting sand kicked in their faces on the beach—and win them the girl. The ad was supposedly inspired by a real-life humiliation suffered by Atlas when he was merely Italian immigrant Angelo Siciliano, before he was inspired by the “physical culture” craze.

Until the Industrial Revolution, most of our ancestors got plenty of exercise in the form of manual labor. But with machines taking over much of that labor, some fretted that people were getting soft. Combining strands of “Muscular Christianity” (a Victorian enthusiasm for piety and physical health), nationalism, and the fetishization of the male form, physical culture sought to turn America’s 97-pound weaklings into muscular men.

Dr. Jerry Morris published the first scientific documentation of the health benefits of activity in 1953. He noted that bus drivers had a higher incidence of heart attacks than bus conductors, whose job involved more activity.

Its most prominent adherent, Bernarr Macfadden, founded *Physical Culture* magazine in 1899, launching a publishing empire whose titles would eventually range from *Liberty* to *True Detective* to *Photoplay*. Born Bernard McFadden in 1868, he changed his name to suggest the roar of a lion and to what he thought of as a more masculine spelling. The contrast between his youthful vigor while working on a Missouri farm and the “physical wreck” his later desk job turned him into convinced Macfadden to take up bodybuilding, walking six miles a day, fasting and vegetarianism. In addition to the magazine, he sought to spread the gospel of physical culture through a planned community in New Jersey and a religion called Cosmotarianism.

But Macfadden’s greatest creation was arguably Siciliano, whom he discovered at a contest in Madison Square Garden in 1921 and soon dubbed “The World’s Most Perfectly Developed Man.” Siciliano legally changed his name to Charles Atlas and worked with Dr. Frederick Tilney, a British homeopathic physician and adviser to Macfadden, to develop his



Physical education was first incorporated into US public schools in 1855, and by the turn of the century, it was commonplace.

Some sources say Jack LaLanne invented the “jumping jack” exercise, though likely he just popularized it; others credit WWI Gen. “Black Jack” Pershing.

“Dynamic Tension” techniques. Students included boxers Max Baer, Joe Louis and Rocky Marciano, as well as countless boys lured by Atlas’ comics ads. (One featured Atlas’ Herculean form with the headline, “And to think they used to call me skinny!”).

Hunting and gathering kept early humans from worries about being physically fit. The first exercise regimens aimed as much at the soul as the body, as in the practice of yoga, developed in India as long as 5,000 years ago. By imitating the motions of animals, practitioners hoped to achieve harmony with nature. Similarly, in China, Confucius (551-479 BCE) included exercise in his philosophy, though he also taught that Cong Fu gymnastics could prevent diseases caused by “organ malfunctions” and “internal stoppages.”

Ancient Greeks believed in exercise for the body and music for the soul and established *palaestras* where young boys practiced gymnastics and wrestling. Older boys, ages 14 to 16, graduated to the gymnasium. While citizens of Athens valued exercise for its spiritual and aesthetic benefits, their neighbors in Sparta—like their foes in the Persian Empire—emphasized fitness for soldiering. Spartan and Persian boys alike began training at the age of 6, when the state took over their upbringing. Military training also kept early Romans fit, though fitness declined as more became mere spectators of gladiatorial games (not unlike the modern effects of television and video games).

In the Dark Ages and Middle Ages, fitness again became a matter of survival, with little time or need for exercise regimens. The Renaissance’s rediscovery of classical civilizations brought physical education back into vogue, though daily life was still the only workout for ordinary people.

Popular interest in fitness rose along with nationalism in Europe in the 19th century. Gymnastic programs spread especially in Germany, where a fit German was considered a good German. Guts Muths, the grandfather of German gymnastics, and Friedrich Jahn, its father, believed exercise training could help the nation turn back the next would-be Napoleon. Muths spread his ideas through the first fitness textbook, *Gymnastics for the Youth*, published in 1800. Beginning in 1811, Jahn established training facilities called *Turnplatz* throughout Germany. He invented the pommel horse and parallel bars, and his centers were among the first with

## IN TIME

**1800** | Guts Muths publishes *Gymnastics for the Youth*

**1811** | Friedrich Jahn opens a gymnasium (*Turnplatz*) in Berlin

**1844** | George Williams founds the YMCA in London

**1899** | Bernarr Macfadden founds *Physical Culture* magazine

**1929** | Charles Atlas Ltd. is incorporated

**1955** | Jack LaLanne wins the Mr. America title

**1956** | President Dwight D. Eisenhower creates the President’s Council on Youth Fitness

**1968** | Dr. Ken H. Cooper publishes *Aerobics*

**1982** | “Jane Fonda’s Workout” video sells the first of 17 million copies

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Charles Atlas was the model for the statue of George Washington in New York's Washington Square Park.

special apparatus for exercises. Similar national fitness movements included the Czech Sokol and the Polish Falcons.

In Sweden, Pehr Henrik Ling used science to create individualized regimens that were lighter and less dependent on equipment than the German model.

Both the German and Swedish systems arrived in the United States with immigrants from those countries, sparking what some called a battle between the different approaches. In Massachusetts in 1824, Charles Beck—a “Turner” devotee of Jahn—opened the nation’s first gym and first school gymnastics program. At Harvard, Dudley Allen Sargent, considered the founder of US physical education, taught both the German and Swedish systems and warned Americans were becoming “fat, deformed and clumsy.”

A uniquely American regimen, the New Gymnastics, was introduced by Dr. Diocletian “Dio” Lewis, a temperance crusader who invented the beanbag. Catherine Beecher, sister of Harriet Beecher Stowe, devised fitness programs for women as part of her push for female education. Her calisthenics set to music were a forerunner of modern aerobics.

Both World Wars galvanized public interest in physical education, as each war’s draft revealed that an alarmingly high proportion of American men were unfit for combat—one-third in World War I, nearly half in World War II.

The postwar spread of television made possible the career of Charles Atlas’ most notable competitor, François Henri “Jack” LaLanne. Like Macfadden, LaLanne was a reformed physical wreck who decided “physical culture and nutrition is the salvation of America.” He opened a gym in Oakland in 1936 at age 21, and took his fitness gospel to the airwaves in 1951. His “Jack LaLanne Show” aired until 1985 and earned him a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame; fans ranged from housewives to Arnold Schwarzenegger. He paved the way for the workout videos of Richard Simmons and Jane Fonda.

Proving the longevity benefits he’d touted, LaLanne died in 2011 at age 96. Not quite so fortunate was Charles Atlas, who died of a heart attack during his daily jog in 1972 at age 79. Bernarr Macfadden made it to age 87 and might’ve lived longer had he not refused medical attention for the urinary tract infection that killed him in 1955. ■

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## PICTURE POSTCARD

🐞 **“WISH YOU WERE here!”** Those four little words, first penned in the early 20th century's golden age of postcards, now appear on missives sent worldwide. The craze for the cheap, brief and colorful communication postcards provided continued until only recently, when email and text messaging took over. Chances are you have a few old picture postcards somewhere in your home today.



## ASK THE ARCHIVIST

**Q.** I found an album of 40 or 50 old postcards that belonged to my aunt. Most were sent through the mail. Should I take them out of the album to better preserve the handwritten correspondence?

**A.** Your album is a family historian's dream: potential genealogical nuggets and social history all in one package. Your instinct to preserve the fragile handwriting and paper is a good idea, and this won't be a difficult or costly project.

First, evaluate the overall condition of the album and its contents. Scan or photograph each page to create a digital backup that preserves the original order and context of the album page. If the book is falling apart or the cards appear damaged, you may want to “recreate” the album using your scans and archival materials. You'd read and share the recreated album, and keep the original in archival storage. Alternatively, remove the postcards and place them in acid-free, photo-safe plastic sleeves for further study and enjoyment.

If, however, you want to keep the book intact, here's how to offer a bit more protection to the contents:

■ **PROTECT THE POSTCARDS FROM ABRASION** and create an acid-free barrier between the pages by interleaving the

### Interleave It at That

Old albums and the photographs inside them don't always play well together. Acids from paper made of wood pulp can stain and damage adjacent photos and ephemera through acid migration. Inserting sheets of thin, acid-free archival paper, called interleaving tissue, between the album pages provides protection from abrasion.



Interleaving tissue is available buffered and unbuffered. Buffered paper contains an agent such as calcium carbonate to neutralize the pH level of acidic papers and protect photos against acid deterioration. The buffering agent can cause pencil and charcoal to change colors, so it's better to use unbuffered interleaving tissue if you'll place it against the handwritten side of the card. Interleaving tissue and other archival storage materials are available from suppliers such as Gaylord Archival <[www.gaylord.com](http://www.gaylord.com)> and Hollinger Metal Edge <[www.hollingermetalede.com](http://www.hollingermetalede.com)>.

pages with archival interleaving tissue (see the box, above). Be careful not to overstuff the album, which creates stress on the spine. If the album is designed with an adjustable binding, you can loosen it to accommodate the interleaving. Otherwise, try interleaving every other page to reduce bulk.

■ **EXAMINE THE REVERSE SIDE OF THE CARDS** for family history information. First, wash your hands. Next, working on a clean, flat surface, carefully remove a postcard. While it's out of the album, scan the card, front and back, in full color at a high resolution, at least 600 dpi (dots per inch). You also could take a photo of the card with your digital camera.

Examine the digital image and transcribe the writing. Look for names and nicknames, addresses of the sender and recipient, dates, family news and other family history clues. The photographic fronts of the cards may offer views of small towns and long-gone buildings. Cards with a picture on one side and “Post Card” label on the reverse, with space for the address only (no handwritten message) are among the oldest styles. Date postcards using the stamp and postmark, as well as the tips at <[www.thewebfooters.com/html/postcard\\_dating.html](http://www.thewebfooters.com/html/postcard_dating.html)>.



## Project Idea: Make Your Own Postcard

Send your own photo postcard—a photo printed with a postcard back—through the US Postal Service, and enjoy a being part of American postal history.

The first postal cards went on sale in 1873 with a one-cent stamp impression, earning them the nickname “penny postcards.” Today, mailings must meet size and shape requirements to qualify for the first class postcard rate (currently 34 cents), but it’s perfectly okay to print your own postcard on heavy paper at home. Here’s how



1. Choose a suitable digital image and size it to meet US Postal Service postcard dimensions: at least 3.5x5 inches and no larger than 4.24x6 inches.

2. To mimic the style of vintage real-photo postcards, use photo-editing software to apply sepia or black-and-white filters and add a caption in a font resembling hand-writing. Add your own photographer’s imprint, if you’d like.

4. Download the postcard back design at <[familytreemagazine.com/article/preserving-old-postcards](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/preserving-old-postcards)>. Set up your document to print double-sided, with the photo on the reverse of the postcard back.

5. Print your card on heavy paper (.007 to .016 inch thick, about the thickness of standard cardstock). Address the back, stamp and drop at the nearest post office.

## Postcards on the Edge

Proper care and storage will extend the life of your loose postcards for future relatives to enjoy. Follow these pointers:

- Digitize each card before storing. The Flip-Pal mobile scanner <[shop.familytree.com/flippal-mobile-scanner](http://shop.familytree.com/flippal-mobile-scanner)> has the perfect small-size flatbed for this project.

- Store cards on edge in archival postcard boxes to avoid abrasion and weight from other cards. If you plan to handle individual cards, place them in archival plastic sleeves.

- Use archival corrugated spacers to take up any empty space in the box so your cards stay upright.

- Alternatively, place your collection in an archival binders with postcard-sized pocket pages.

- Organize postcards chronologically, by theme or by sender/recipient. Archival divider cards can separate and label categories.

## Heirloom ID

## Real-Photo Postcards



Real-photo postcard (sometimes called RPPCs)—photographs with postcard backs—are among the most sought-after cards for deltiologists (postcard collectors). Small-town merchants often issued these cards to feature local landmarks and events, and amateur photographers could have photos printed with postcard backs for mailing to friends. This one, taken about 1907, shows a house in North Galveston, Texas.

You can tell you have a real-photo postcard by zooming in on a scan or examining the image with a photographer’s loupe. A photo postcard has an even appearance, whereas a postcard printed on a press appears made up of tiny dots. You can use the photo to help date the postcard, as well as the design on the back; see <[www.playle.com/realphoto](http://www.playle.com/realphoto)> for examples. If the card was mailed, check the postmark and stamp.

Real-photo postcards vary in quality, from well-composed and sharp to blurry amateur snapshots. Much of their appeal lies in the personal nature of the photos and the focus on individuals and local scenes. Learn more from *Real Photo Postcard Guide: The People’s Photography* by Robert Bogdan and Todd Weseloh (Syracuse University Press). ■

Courtesy of Denise Levenick



## My relatives were vaudeville entertainers. I know their stage names. Where might I find information about them?

**A** Some books to start your vaudeville research include: *The Encyclopedia of Vaudeville* by Anthony Slide (University Press of Mississippi); *Vaudeville, Old and New: An Encyclopedia of Variety Performers in America* by Frank Cullen (Routledge); and *No Applause—Just Throw Money: The Book That Made Vaudeville Famous* by Trav S.D. (Faber & Faber). You also could check back issues of the *Vaudeville Times* (available for purchase online <[www.vaudeville.org/back\\_issues](http://www.vaudeville.org/back_issues)>), published by the American Vaudeville

Museum <[www.vaudeville.org](http://www.vaudeville.org)>, whose website also hosts a lengthy list of vaudeville performer profiles and history articles. The University of Iowa is home to the Keith/Albee Collection: The Vaudeville Industry, 1894-1935, which preserves much of the cultural and industrial history of the vaudeville circuit collected by Benjamin Franklin Keith and Edward F. Albee. A finding aid to this collection is at <[www.lib.uiowa.edu/scua/msc/tomsc400/msc356/msc356.html](http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/scua/msc/tomsc400/msc356/msc356.html)>; some fragile items are in the process of being digitized.

Because you already know some of the places where your relatives entertained, you may be able to learn more online at sites dedicated to those theaters' colorful histories. These range from the Vaudeville Theatre in London <[www.vaudevilletheatre.org.uk/history.html](http://www.vaudevilletheatre.org.uk/history.html)> to Proctors Theatre in Schenectady, NY <[www.proctors.org/about](http://www.proctors.org/about)>, to the Henry Strater Theatre in Durango, Colo. <[durangomelodrama.com/henry-strater-history.html](http://durangomelodrama.com/henry-strater-history.html)>. Try searching for the theater's name or a place name plus the word *vaudeville*.

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**Q** My daughter-in-law's father, born in Germany, came to the United States in 1950 aboard a ship manned by the US Navy. Why would he have immigrated this way?

**A** He may have been transported under the Displaced Persons Act, passed after World War II to help deal with the crisis of displaced individuals throughout Europe. Beginning in 1948, more than 200,000 displaced persons and 17,000 orphans received visas without regard to immigration quotas. The act was amended in 1950 to add another 121,000 visas plus additional provisions for orphans, and extended in 1951. Those classified as displaced persons were mostly Eastern Europeans, often who'd been forced to work in German factories and farms; others were survivors of German concentration camps. Before being issued a visa, a person had to have an American sponsor and be screened by a board set up in Hamburg "to sift out Communists and other subversives."

The US Navy and the Army Transport Service (later the Military Sea Transportation Service) transported many of the "DPs," mostly from the port of Bremerhaven. Built to move nearly 3,500 GIs, a troop ship typically carried fewer than 700 refugees, according to an account at the American Merchant Marine at War site <[www.usmm.org](http://www.usmm.org)>. One crewman aboard the *General M.B. Stewart* recalled its arrival in New York with passengers ranging from 7 weeks to 79 years old: "As the ship approached the Statue of Liberty, the fireboats sent up their streams of water and the whistles

of greeting reached a crescendo. New York was welcoming these citizens-to-be as only New York can welcome ... Amidships were 11 foreign flags representing the nations from which these future citizens had been drawn."

**Q** Family legend has it that an ancestor was imprisoned on, and escaped from, a British POW ship in Charleston Harbor in 1780. Where would I look for records?

**A** Try the National Archives' <[archives.gov](http://archives.gov)> microfilm M247, Papers of the Continental Congress, which includes information about Americans held as prisoners of war during the Revolution, as well as British and Loyalist prisoners. According to the archives' description of this collection, it contains "detailed accountings of several dozen American POWs detained on a ship in Charleston Harbor." Finding specific records in this microfilm series can be tricky: Pages are numbered at the top left corner of each document and numbering starts over with each item or volume (some larger items are broken into separate volumes). The Charleston Harbor records are on roll No. 175, item 155, volume 2, pages 219-222. You also can search these records online at subscription site Fold3 <[www.fold3.com/title\\_63/continental\\_congress\\_papers](http://www.fold3.com/title_63/continental_congress_papers)>.

Other information about POWs, mostly centered around 1780, is in microfilm series M246, Revolutionary War Rolls. You can search these records by subscription at Ancestry.com <[search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=4282](http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=4282)>. ■



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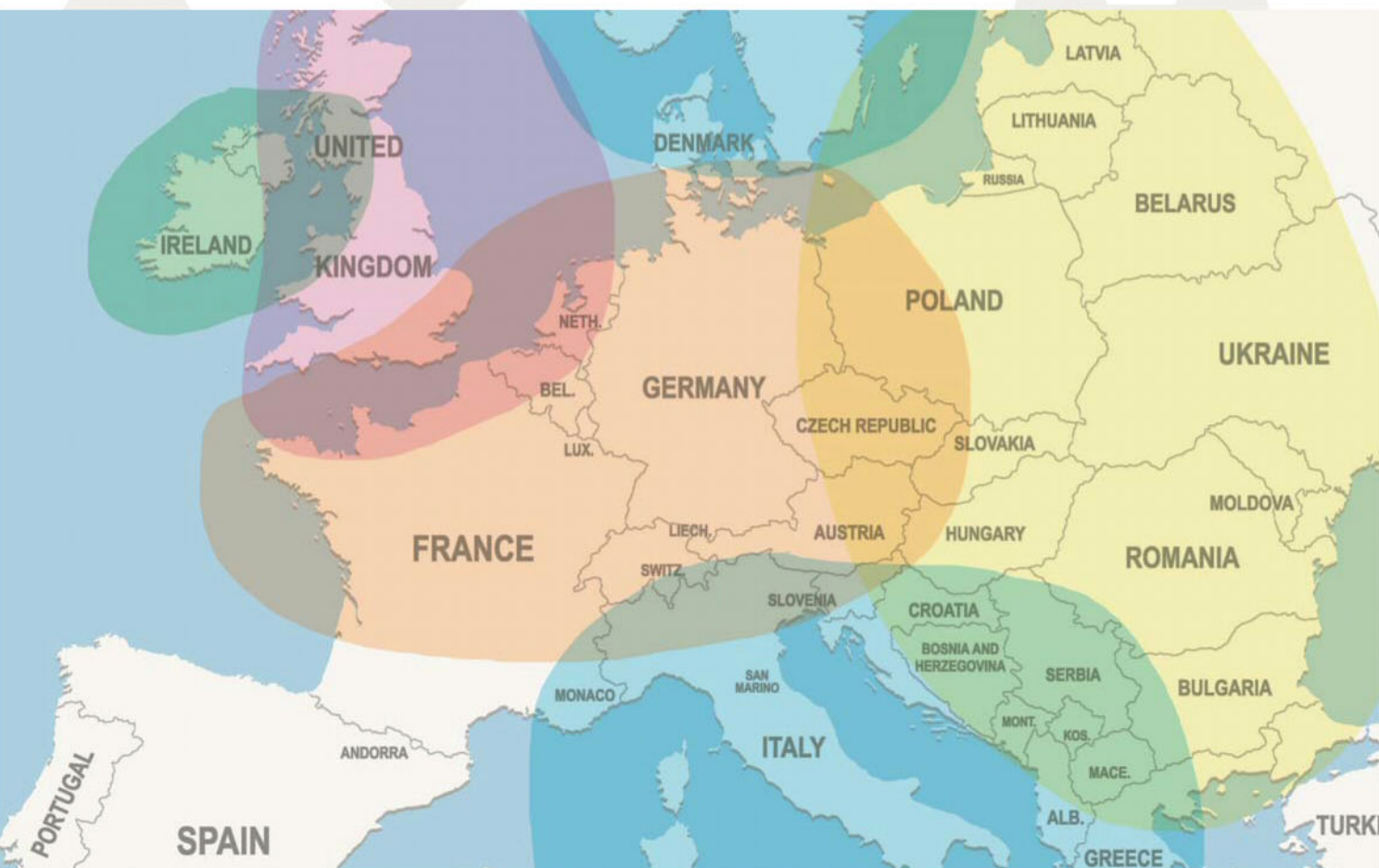
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# LOST in the SHUFFLE

Baffled by the map of ancestral origins in your autosomal DNA test results? Learn the science behind your ethnicity percentages—and how to decode them.

BY DIAHAN SOUTHARD



🦋 **WHERE ARE YOU** right now? Sitting in a chair, standing in line, or riding in the car? You might add that you're in your house, at the store, or on I-95. Further descriptors might include your city, country and, if you were my very literal 11-year-old, you might end with "Milky Way Galaxy" or "the universe." Ultimately, you'd pull out a map or more likely, your phone, to immediately triangulate your position using satellites in space to confidently place you on screen within feet of your actual position.

But what if I hauled you off blindfolded into the desert, handed you a map of New York City, and told you to get yourself home to Ohio. Would you be able to do it? Imagine the feeling you might have when the blindfold comes off and all you see is the horizon stretching out in all directions. That feeling of being completely disoriented, followed by confusion as you try to make sense of the map in your hands, versus what's in front of you and what's in your memory.

This lost feeling is what most people experience when they look at an aesthetically pleasing but completely baffling ethnic heritage map included with their autosomal DNA test results. Such a map typically shows one or more areas of the world with colored circles around countries or regions where test results indicate the person's DNA originated. You can see an example of what one looks like on the opposite page.

You should be able to use a map to find your location, or in this case, the locations of your ancestors—right? But you'll notice that absent from this map is the satellite triangulation providing a big, clear X to mark a spot. Instead, the map has several figurative Xes that all say, "You were here (probably)."

To make matters worse, a map from one testing company may tell you something totally different from another company's map. Talk about an identity crisis. But we're here to help you through it, and help you get the most from your DNA testing investment. First, we'll talk about how your DNA map is created, then we'll answer frequently asked questions about autosomal ethnicity maps.

## FALLING INTO PLACE

An autosomal DNA test, the kind used to create these maps, can help you trace both your maternal and paternal sides.



**TIP:** Genetic genealogy is a rapidly changing field. Keep up with new developments by following websites and blogs such as the International Society of Genetic Genealogy <[www.isogg.org](http://www.isogg.org)>, Your Genetic Genealogist <[www.yourgeneticgenealogist.com](http://www.yourgeneticgenealogist.com)>, DNAeXplained <[dna-explained.com](http://dna-explained.com)> and the Genetic Genealogist <[www.thegeneticgenealogist.com](http://www.thegeneticgenealogist.com)>.

Scientists are not only trying to put together a million-piece puzzle without a picture, but they're also doing it while missing several hundred thousand pieces.

You get half of your DNA from your mom, and half from your dad. That means you have about 25 percent of your grandparents' DNA, and about 12.5 percent of your great-grandparents' DNA, and so on. The results of testing come in one big pile, with no distinction as to which piece of DNA came from which ancestor. This test provides two different kinds of results:

■ **MATCHES:** This list contains others who share DNA with you, and therefore share an ancestor with you at some point.

■ **ANCESTRAL ORIGINS:** This map and accompanying list of percentages purportedly shows your ancestral locations. These geographical results—which we'll explain here—are often referred to as your admixture results.

I think the first thought that comes to most minds upon viewing an autosomal DNA map for the first time is, "Huh?" This is followed by a little head scratching, a few more aimless clicks around the testing company's website, more head scratching, and ending finally with a navigation to Netflix to see what's on tonight. At best, you chalk up these results to one of life's great mysteries and you move on. But you *can* understand these results. And sometimes even find them useful in your genealogy research.

In my early days at the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation <[smgf.org](http://smgf.org)>, when using DNA to help determine a person's origins was more hope than substance, I was gathered around a conference table with a handful of other genetic genealogists for a meeting with geneticist Scott Woodward, then the director of the foundation. He was about to show us some mind-blowing data. A series of images appeared on a screen. At first these were weblike thin white lines representing the relationships between clusters of brightly colored balls. The balls were individuals. The clusters happened when those individuals shared genetic traits. It was exciting to see that people with unknown relationships were creating these natural genetic groups. There were some outliers, of course, but for the most part the images were clean and distinct.

As if that wasn't demonstration enough that genetics could help distinguish populations, Dr. Woodward zoomed in on one cluster. It was gold, and set apart from the others.

## Around the World With Your DNA



Genetic genealogy testing companies divide up the world's population in different ways. For example, look at this comparison showing the same person's estimated ethnicity percentages from the three major testing companies: All three companies have a Scandinavian category, but the rest of Europe is divided up quite differently.

The black background was replaced with a world map that framed that gold cluster squarely in the islands of Polynesia. I can remember the thrill of the discovery, the realization that not only were shared genetics defining this cluster, but those genetics also were tied to a particular geographic location. That thrill of discovery is what drives most people to pursue this type of DNA test.

The most important thing you can remember about autosomal DNA testing is that because of the way DNA is inherited, you essentially lose half of your autosomal DNA at each generation. This means your genetic pedigree isn't going to be the same as your genealogical pedigree. Your genealogical pedigree can contain millions of names, all equally connected to you through your paper records and documentation. Your genetic pedigree contains only a fraction of those millions of individuals, those whose DNA you've actually inherited.

## DNA MAPS DEMYSTIFIED

### Q How do maps from different DNA testing companies compare?

A Three major companies offer autosomal DNA testing for genealogy: 23andMe <[www.23andme.com](http://www.23andme.com)>, Family Tree DNA <[www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com)> and Ancestry.com <[dna.ancestry.com](http://dna.ancestry.com)>. A fourth, the Genographic Project <[genographic.nationalgeographic.com](http://genographic.nationalgeographic.com)>, is interested mostly in ancient human history and migrations, not in helping you find ancestors.

The chart above shows the same person's admixture results from the three major companies. You can see that

the way each testing company has divided up the world into populations is different. For example, 23andMe groups British and Irish, Ancestry DNA separates these two, and Family Tree DNA includes them in Western and Central Europe. For each testing company, the reference populations your genetic data are compared against are a major factor that determines what your ethnicity map looks like. As you can see in the comparison above, each testing company has a unique mix of reference population samples. Because the three companies compare your DNA samples to different pools of data, it's no surprise that their results don't line up exactly.

In addition, the reference populations are weighted quite a bit toward European groups. So if you have African, Asian or Middle Eastern origins, the testing won't be as fruitful because the comparison pool is so small.

Inevitably, the next question is either "Which company does the best job at determining my admixture results?" or "Which company is best for identifying Native American (or Jewish, or African) ancestry?" The short answer is, in the words of genetic genealogist Judy Russell, who blogs at The Legal Genealogist <[www.legalgenealogist.com](http://www.legalgenealogist.com)>: "Test at all three and your results are probably somewhere in the middle." I couldn't agree more.

### Q Can a DNA map verify a family legend of American Indian ancestry?

A The answer is a resounding "yes." Followed by an equally emphatic "sometimes."



The ancestor you suspect is the source of your American Indian heritage should be within the last five generations. The further back your American Indian ancestor, the smaller the portion of DNA you share with him or her. Beyond five generations, chances are you won't have inherited enough of any one ancestor's DNA to be confident a test will detect it.

For the same reason, a DNA test can't negate the possibility of a specific ethnic heritage: If Native American designations show up on your test, you have an American Indian ancestor—but the absence of Native American DNA in your results doesn't mean that you don't have an Indian ancestor. If your third-great-grandmother was Indian, for example, it's possible you just didn't inherit any of her American Indian DNA. That scenario is shown in the illustration on the next page.

For most people, ethnicity estimates' best genealogical benefit is to give you confidence you're going down the right path and encourage you to keep searching for documentation of a specific ethnic heritage.

### Q Why do I see locations in my map that don't match my research? Why don't I see locations that I've found through research?

A Maybe your father's family all came from Germany, but you don't have any German in your ethnicity maps. Or maybe you've documented your family lines back past the 1600s, and none of them go to Scandinavia, yet your test says you're 10 percent Scandinavian.

The first problem, as we've mentioned, is that certain population groups are under-represented in testing companies' reference populations. The second issue is what I call the Mango Theory: In January, in Michigan, you can walk into a grocery store and buy a mango. But did that mango actually grow in Michigan? Not likely. Let's say it grew in Brazil. It was hanging happily on a tree there until it was picked and tossed into a truck, bound for the coast. There it boarded the first boat to the United States, docking somewhere in Texas. From there another truck escorted it to the grocery store in Michigan, where a stocker put it in the produce section. Is it now a Michigan mango? If so, at what point did it become a Michigan mango?

The same issues occur as scientists try to use your DNA to infer information about your origins: They see you with a mango—a certain DNA marker. They know that marker comes from a particular place, so they say you're from that place. Hence the Scandinavian in an otherwise Western European admixture result.

But you aren't. As genetic genealogy evolves, scientists are getting better at looking around the entire produce section, instead of just at one fruit. The mango in Michigan is stocked next to the Florida orange and the Washington apple. But the mango in Brazil is next to the papaya and guava. As scientists make connections between DNA markers characteristic of

populations from specific places, they'll be better able to sort out the Michigan mangos from the Brazilian mangos.

AncestryDNA does a good job of trying to help you realize this margin for error with a section in your ethnicity results report called "How does [insert your name] compare to the typical person native to the [insert region of interest]?" Let's take the region Ancestry DNA calls Europe West, which encompasses Germany, France and surrounding areas. According to the company's website, of the 416 individuals in the Europe West reference population, a whopping 46 percent had Scandinavian DNA markers. If your DNA matches Europe West, suddenly you're part Scandinavian.

This is a case of the mango in Michigan, here looking like a Scandinavian in Germany. It's likely that eventually, scientists will be able to distinguish a Scandinavian DNA marker in Germany from a Scandinavian DNA marker in Scandinavia. But for now, allow for some wiggle room in your ethnicity percentages.

### Q Do I need to be an archeologist or a population geneticist to understand these ethnicity maps?

A No. But let's be honest, it wouldn't hurt! The truth is, we're using genetic data from modern populations (i.e. you) to try to reconstruct what happened in the past, anywhere from 500 to 75,000 years ago and maybe more. It's like putting together a million-piece jigsaw puzzle without the picture on the box. Genetic testing is far from the only factor to consider when trying to piece together the history of populations.

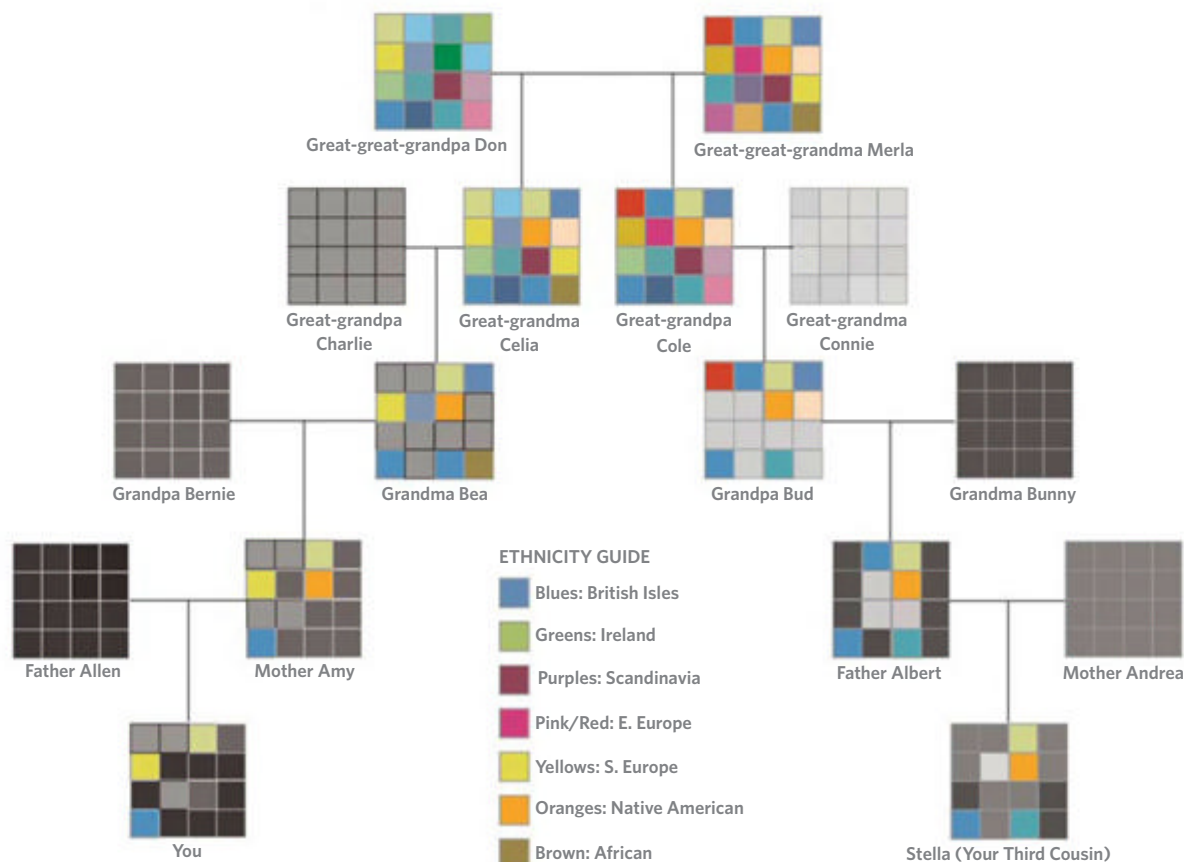
As an undergraduate, I worked on a fascinating project: A cemetery named Fag el-Gamous had been discovered in Egypt, about 60 miles south of Cairo. This cemetery, unlike most, seemed to be on its own, in the middle of nowhere. So many questions surrounded it. Who were these people? Where did they come from?

My lab was testing unearthed samples for genetic traits that might link these people to a modern population group. Other researchers involved in this project studied the artifacts buried with the bodies, the bodies' positions in the ground, and the composition and origin of textiles



**TIP:** You can have your Y-DNA or mitochondrial DNA tested for ethnic origins, too. Remember that these tests, though, cover only paternal or maternal lines, respectively. Also, because this type of DNA mutates infrequently, results will relate to your family's ancient origins, not to recent generations.

## Doin' the Autosomal DNA Shuffle



Say each of your relatives' autosomal DNA was a big square, made up of smaller colored squares of DNA associated with various ethnic groups. Here, American Indian DNA is orange. Notice that you (there at the bottom left) have no orange in your DNA. Does that mean your great-great-grandmother Merla wasn't American Indian? Of course not. It just means that you didn't happen to inherit that DNA from her in the random shuffling that occurs at each generation. Your third cousin Stella, however, does have American Indian DNA. But this doesn't prove that Merla had American Indian heritage. Instead, it means that somewhere in Stella's pedigree chart, we should be able to find an Indian ancestor—whether it's your shared great-great-grandmother Merla, or someone in the lines of Stella's ancestors Andrea, Bunny or Connie.

discovered in the graves. The combined, interdisciplinary efforts have led to diverse findings. One hypothesis says a sudden switch from west-facing to east-facing burials signals the population's a conversion to Christianity. Christian tradition calls for burying bodies facing east to see Christ when he comes again.

You may not have the benefit of ancient textiles and artifacts to illuminate your DNA map, but principles of population genetics and archeology can help you better understand your genetic origins. Imagine one of your ancestors 60,000 years ago living on the plains of Siberia. He looks around and thinks, "I'm cold. There has to be a better life than this!" So he and his DNA head west. In case anyone wants to follow him, he clearly marks his path with signposts at strategic locations along the way. Your ancestor was clever (I'm sure you're not surprised): Instead of making the signposts out

of wood that would rot away, he recorded these signposts in his DNA.

To analyze your DNA, your testing company has collected these signposts, called SNPs ("snips"). You have about 15 million total, around 300,000 of which are actually used to create your ethnicity map. Each SNP has a date and location stamp on it. The problem is, they aren't always easy to read. Identifying the time and location stamps for these SNPs will help us better follow the migration paths of your ancestors and improve your autosomal DNA map.

When organizing SNPs into a timeline, geneticists must account for population bottlenecks. Let's go back to your ancestor and his journey. As the generations go on, your ancestor's posterity increases. The communities he helped found thrive. Then *bam!* Earthquake, famine, war or weather wipes out half of the population. A population bottleneck

happens when a genetically diverse population is reduced to a fraction of its numbers. What this means is that scientists are not only trying to put together a million-piece puzzle without a picture, but they're also doing it while missing several hundred thousand pieces.

Sounds dismal, doesn't it? With all these limitations, how can a testing company use your DNA to help you understand your origins? Moving on ...

## Q Can you explain the science behind these maps?

A To take a complicated procedure and condense it into one sentence: Testing companies look at a large amount of genetic data in a bunch of different ways and come up with the best possible ethnicity numbers. There, I just saved you an entire semester in a college statistics class. You can pay me later.

Let's look at this a little more closely. When I said a "large amount of data," I'm talking about 300,000 individual data points in your DNA to help determine your ancestral origins. If you had to interview each of these data points to determine if it was fit for inclusion in our test, you would want it to answer these (sometimes quite personal!) questions:

■ **DO YOU HAVE SOME AFFILIATION WITH A PARTICULAR, EVEN IF YET UNIDENTIFIED, GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION?** Correct answer: "Absolutely yes." It's important to remember that in order to distinguish populations, you need a DNA value that's common in one population, but is rarely present in others. Values that are more widespread aren't useful for our purposes.

■ **ARE YOU NOW, OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN, IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH ANOTHER DATA POINT IN THIS SET?** Meaning, when the time comes for moving on to the next generation, are you traveling with any other data points? Correct answer: A confident "No, ma'am." A "no" here is important because if any of these data points are moving together, they shouldn't be counted separately. If they're not inherited independently of each other, it messes up the math.

■ **DO YOU FIND YOU ARE INDECISIVE AND CHANGE YOUR MIND OFTEN?** Correct answer (without hesitation): "No, sir." You want data points that can give a reliable accounting of the past. Those that are apt to change or mutate every few generations won't be useful for our current purposes.

Now you have the data that you want, but how can we look at the data in "a bunch of different ways?" Those 300,000 data points that passed our interrogation are important. Remember, an estimated 15 million other data points didn't pass. So, an important part of the process is understanding the "what ifs?" What if we had used a different 300,000 data points? Would we get the same results? This is the question that keeps the computers at our testing companies up at night. They're busily trying to figure out other ways the data could have arranged itself and then combining all the actual data and all the fabricated data into one cohesive answer.

Of course that answer is "the best possible ethnicity numbers." These numbers are only as good as the data they've come from. Think of these ethnicity numbers as living and breathing and therefore changing. Genetic data will surely improve over time as more DNA samples are amassed and scientists develop new ways to think about these complicated issues.

This is really the bottom line when you're trying to find yourself on autosomal DNA maps: The maps are cool to look at, interesting to think about, and can confirm (but can't negate) that you have a specific ethnic heritage, such as African, Jewish or Native American. It's neat to have a picture (if a somewhat fuzzy one) of where you came from. But in the end, to gain the most value from your ethnicity results, you'll need to use them in tandem with your very genealogically valuable list of autosomal DNA matches. That's where the real work of genetic genealogy takes place. ■

Through her business Your DNA Guide <[yourdnaguide.com](http://yourdnaguide.com)>, **DIAHAN SOUTHARD** helps family historians choose the right DNA test for their needs, and use the results to build on their genealogy research.

## MORE ONLINE

### Free Web Content

- Podcast: DNA & Your Genealogy <[familytreemagazine.com/article/episode78](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/episode78)>
- Genetic genealogy online databases <[familytreemagazine.com/article/test-results-databases](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/test-results-databases)>
- Experts' genetic genealogy tips <[familytreemagazine.com/article/genetic-genealogy-research-tips](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/genetic-genealogy-research-tips)>

### For Plus Members

- Genetic Genealogy Success Stories <[familytreemagazine.com/article/dna-genetic-genealogy-success-stories](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/dna-genetic-genealogy-success-stories)>
- Using autosomal DNA in genealogy research <[familytreemagazine.com/article/autosomal-DNA-genealogy](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/autosomal-DNA-genealogy)>
- Six common genetic genealogy myths <[familytreemagazine.com/article/dna-fact-or-science-fiction](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/dna-fact-or-science-fiction)>

### ShopFamilyTree.com

- Genetic Genealogy Cheat Sheet <[shopfamilytree.com/genetic-genealogy-cheat-sheet](http://shopfamilytree.com/genetic-genealogy-cheat-sheet)>
- Using DNA to Solve Family Mysteries on-demand webinar <[shopfamilytree.com/using-dna-to-solve-family-mysteries-webinar](http://shopfamilytree.com/using-dna-to-solve-family-mysteries-webinar)>
- Autosomal DNA for the Genealogist Cheat Sheet <[shopfamilytree.com/autosomal-dna-genealogist-grouped](http://shopfamilytree.com/autosomal-dna-genealogist-grouped)>





# IRISH SITES ARE SMILING

**Genealogy research in Ireland has its challenges,  
but more and more websites are helping you overcome them.  
These 12 are the web's best bets for tracing your Irish ancestors.**

**BY CLAIRE SANTRY**

🐉 **IF YOU'RE TRACING** (or trying to trace) Irish ancestors, you may have heard that “all the records burned in the fire”—the 1922 Four Courts Fire at the Public Record Office in Dublin, an unfortunate event of the Irish Civil War.

But this is a myth that online Irish family history databases are doing their level best to shatter, and rightly so. While it's true that an important part of Ireland's genealogical heritage did go up in smoke that day—including many wills, legal court records, Church of Ireland parish records and national censuses from 1821 to 1851—many important collections survived. Modern-day Celtic creative thinking is helping to bridge some of the record gaps with an ever-increasing selection of online historical documents that hold clues to the lives of our Irish ancestors.

Undoubtedly, Irish genealogy will remain challenging for many researchers, especially for those whose immigrant ancestors didn't leave behind readily discovered information

about their origins in Ireland. But as these 12 top websites demonstrate, the opportunity to discover more about your Irish heritage has never been greater.

## 1 **Ancestry.com** 💰

Beyond its US-focused databases, which may reveal details of your Irish immigrant ancestor's journey, naturalization (if indeed he became a citizen) and life in North America, subscription site Ancestry.com <ancestry.com> has an Ireland-specific collection of about 40 million records (requires a World membership). Although this is considerably smaller than the collection on Findmypast (see website No. 4), it includes several essential beginner record sets—censuses, civil registrations and Griffith's Valuation—and a few less widely available resources such as Royal Irish Constabulary records (1816-1921) and the browseable Famine Relief Commission papers (1844-1847).



The jewel in this site's crown, an indexed collection of more than 700,000 names in Roman Catholic parish registers, made an unheralded debut only last year, much to the delight of Irish researchers. It consists of baptism, marriage, burial and very unusually, confirmations from 73 parishes in the counties of Armagh, Carlow, Donegal, Dublin, Galway, Kildare, Laois, Limerick, Londonderry, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Sligo, Tipperary, Westmeath and Wicklow. The earliest records date from 1763. Many entries include a high-quality scanned image of the original register, while others return a transcription. Depending on the layout of some of the registers, you may need to click to the next page to see the names of sponsors (godparents).

## 2 **AncestryIreland.com** 💰

Not to be confused with the aforementioned Ancestry.com, based in Utah, AncestryIreland <[www.ancestryireland.com](http://www.ancestryireland.com)> is the online home of the Ulster Historical Foundation (ULF), an educational charity from Belfast, as well as its membership arm, the Ulster Genealogical and Historical Guild.

As part of the Irish Family History Foundation's network of island-wide genealogy centers, the ULF uploads its church and civil record transcriptions for counties Antrim and Down to the subscription-based RootsIreland database (see website No. 12), but these records are also accessible on

AncestryIreland. The difference is that while RootsIreland offers these and other records as part of a monthly subscription package, AncestryIreland offers them on a pay-per-view basis. Your most cost-effective option will depend on the geographical focus of your research and how much time you can dedicate to your ancestral hunt over a month. Also depending on your particular research needs, you might consider membership in the guild. This opens up some 200 small- to medium-sized databases covering more of Ulster, many of them exclusive and dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries.

## 3 **FamilySearch.org**

FamilySearch <[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)>, the genealogical arm of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, has an agreement with the National Archives of Ireland (NAI) that allows duplication of nearly all the NAI's records except the 1901 and 1911 censuses. Indexes to Landed Estate Court Records 1850-1885 and Irish Prison Registers 1790-1924 are free to search on FamilySearch.org, but you can view the record images only from a branch FamilySearch Center (or with a World subscription to Findmypast.com).

For many researchers, however, the Irish pot of gold on FamilySearch.org is the collection of civil registration indexes covering 1845 to 1958, an essential Irish genealogy





record set. It's available elsewhere for a fee, sometimes with enhanced searching, but FamilySearch.org provides a useful free, basic version. Researchers with ancestors from Northern Ireland are best off with the General Register Office of Northern Ireland's (GRONI's) free online search (see website No. 5), but for others, the FamilySearch.org version will remain the number one option for finding vital records.

Other potentially useful collections are Ireland Births and Baptisms, 1620-1881 and Ireland Marriages, 1619-1898 which, together, hold just under 6 million records. The coverage of these collections is a bit inconsistent, though. For example, the Roman Catholic records come from only a few parishes in counties Cork, Galway, Kerry, Roscommon and Sligo, and although Protestant coverage is excellent in some areas (such as County Monaghan), it's nonexistent in others. To better understand these limitations, navigate to the search page for each collection and click the Learn More link.

## 4 Findmypast.com \$

Findmypast has the largest collection of Irish family history records (about 140 million) online. In addition, a World subscription to Findmypast.com site, or an Ireland subscription via Findmypast.ie, includes a growing number of Irish newspaper titles (more than 70 at last count) dating back to the 1700s.

Among the gems to look for are Landed Estate Court Rentals, a collection much more interesting than its name might suggest: It often holds surprising details about land tenants. The Irish Petty Sessions, a collection of records 22 million strong (Republic of Ireland counties only), hold the stories

of our ancestors' sporadic misdemeanors and squabbles with neighbors. And then there are the esoteric dog licenses registers, which record 6 million names of people and an occasional furry friend. Beyond adding color to your knowledge of an ancestor's life, these records can provide great clues to the ever-changing story of a family.

Not to be missed by anyone with roots in Ireland's West Coast counties are the Poverty Relief Loans, 1821-1874. These record small loans by local committees, which may have funded the purchase of a sheep or a ticket across the Atlantic.

Findmypast also has a unique search mechanism for the 1901 census, which lets you search for more than one household member, by birth year and by variants on the spelling of first and last names. If you've had trouble finding ancestors in this census on the National Archives of Ireland website (No. 9 in this listing), check out the Findmypast version. Watch for its frequent promotional offers and free access weekends.

## 5 General Register Office of Northern Ireland

In 2014, GRONI <[geni.nidirect.gov.uk](http://geni.nidirect.gov.uk)> launched an online database of civil registration records for counties Antrim, Armagh, Down, Londonderry, Fermanagh and Tyrone. Its birth records date from 1864 to 100 years ago, marriages from 1864 (or 1845 if Protestant or civil ceremonies) to 75 years ago, and deaths from 1864 to 50 years ago.

You must register before you start to explore the records. Although registration is free, watch out for the first quirk of the system: You must have at least one credit in your account in order to see search results (even free search results). One credit costs .4 pounds or about 60 cents.

Basic, free searches may satisfy your research needs. You only start paying if you select Enhanced View, which provides additional information transcribed from the original birth, marriage or death certificate, or if you choose Full Certificate View, which presents both a transcription and a digital image of the original certificate.

This is where the second quirk appears. Your search results remain in your account for only 72 hours. As there isn't a download-to-computer option, be sure to take a screenshot



**TIP:** Naturalization papers and records generated when a person died—obituaries, tombstones, burial records, funeral home records—can be especially helpful in determining an Irish ancestor's place of origin.



## IRELAND, 1921



## A Place of Their Own

As in most genealogy research, you'll need to know where your ancestors lived when you're using records of Ireland. Try to learn the names of these jurisdictions for your ancestors:

■ **Townland:** The smallest civil geographic locality, similar to a neighborhood, the townland is the primary division in land surveys, such as Griffith's Valuation. Townland names are often repeated in multiple parishes and counties. For example, Ireland has no less than seven townlands called Ballyadam: two in County Cork, two in County Limerick, and one each in counties Down, Waterford and Wexford. If you're not sure of a townland's location, try the search at [www.swilson.info/db/townlanddbs.php](http://www.swilson.info/db/townlanddbs.php).

■ **Parish:** The parish is the organizational unit for Catholic church and Church of Ireland records, which are key to tracing family history before civil registration began in 1864. Both

churches use parishes for administrative purposes, but they don't necessarily use the same boundaries. Typically, Roman Catholic parishes cover wider geographical areas. Church of Ireland parishes are also referred to as civil parishes.

■ **Poor Law Union:** These unions were created in 1838 to administer relief to the poor.

■ **District Electoral Division:** Townlands were grouped into district electoral divisions (DEDs) for purposes of administering censuses. Several DEDs make up a civil registration district.

■ **Barony:** These county subdivisions are no longer used, though some records are organized by barony within the county.

■ **County:** Many record groups are organized by county and then by jurisdictions within that county. Ireland has 32 historical counties; six in Northern Ireland and 26 in the Republic of Ireland.



of your records before you finish your research session. Finally, if you have Northern Ireland ancestors, don't miss the useful and often overlooked searchable townland map.

## 6 The Irish Times: Irish Ancestors

Irish Ancestors <[www.irishtimes.com/ancestor](http://www.irishtimes.com/ancestor)> is Ireland's longest-running established genealogy website. It's hosted on the *Irish Times* website, lending a suitably prestigious address to a site founded and managed by the renowned Irish genealogist John Grenham. Unlike the other sites here, Irish Ancestors doesn't hold any record collections. Instead, it provides masses of

information and clear direction to those starting their Irish ancestry hunt.

The site is split into two sections, one free and one pay-per-view or subscription-based. The free segment is huge and worth the time spent exploring. Behind the Browse button lies an online version of Grenham's *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* (Genealogical Publishing Co.; widely considered the Bible of Irish genealogy), a vast list of Irish genealogy links, detailed civil and Roman Catholic parish maps, step-by-step how-to advice, and an extensive collection of articles on Irish heritage and genealogy.

A recently added free feature is the excellent Research Wizard. This tool analyses the details of what you already know about an ancestor and produces specific recommendations for further research. Researchers also should search the Surnames database for free counts of households by county, a surname dictionary, surname histories and more.

The paying sections of the site provide more searchable tools and finding aids, including the Double Surname Search. This lets you search Griffiths Valuation for parishes with both surnames you search for—particularly useful if you know the surnames of an immigrant couple but not their place of origin in Ireland.

## 7 IrishGenealogy.ie

This free database holds nearly 3 million transcriptions of pre-20th century church records of baptisms, marriages and burials for selected Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic parishes in counties Kerry, Cork and Carlow and the city of Dublin, plus one Presbyterian register for Lucan in County Dublin. More than half a million of the records date from the 17th and 18th centuries, with nearly all of the rest from the early 1800s and later. In some cases, you also can view images of the register page.

You'll find a list of parishes this collection includes on the Church Records search page. For those with ancestors in this relatively small geographical area, IrishGenealogy.ie is invaluable: These indexed records aren't online elsewhere.

The site also holds the only official version of Ireland's civil registration indexes of births, marriages and deaths.

## MORE ONLINE

### Free Web Content

- Four Irish genealogy tips <[familytreemagazine.com/article/four-tips-for-irish-roots-research](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/four-tips-for-irish-roots-research)>
- More Irish genealogy websites <[familytreemagazine.com/article/finding-your-irish-ancestors-1](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/finding-your-irish-ancestors-1)>
- Q&A: Finding Irish origins <[familytreemagazine.com/article/county-origins-in-ireland](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/county-origins-in-ireland)>

### For Plus Members

- Irish research guide <[familytreemagazine.com/article/irish-blessings](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/irish-blessings)>
- How to search Griffiths Valuation <[familytreemagazine.com/article/tutorial-tracing-irish-ancestors-in-griffiths-valuation](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/tutorial-tracing-irish-ancestors-in-griffiths-valuation)>
- Tracing Irish Catholic nuns <[familytreemagazine.com/article/flying-irish-nuns](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/flying-irish-nuns)>

### ShopFamilyTree.com

- Irish Genealogy Cheat Sheet <[shopfamilytree.com/irish-genealogy-cheat-sheet-u5709](http://shopfamilytree.com/irish-genealogy-cheat-sheet-u5709)>
- Seeking Your Scots-Irish Roots Video Class <[shopfamilytree.com/seeking-your-scots-irish-roots-digital-download-t1062](http://shopfamilytree.com/seeking-your-scots-irish-roots-digital-download-t1062)>
- Family Tree Historical Maps Book: Europe <[shopfamilytree.com/family-tree-historical-maps-book-europe-grouped](http://shopfamilytree.com/family-tree-historical-maps-book-europe-grouped)>



Dog licenses registers record  
6 million names of Irish people and  
an occasional furry friend.

“Non-approved” versions, from FamilySearch microfilm taken during the 1960s, are available at FamilySearch, Findmypast and Ancestry.com. These records extend to 1921 for Northern Ireland and to 1958 for the Republic of Ireland.

IrishGenealogy.ie’s civil registrations follow the 100-75-50-year privacy rule GRONI uses (see page 28). At first glance, this appears to offer less than the microfilm version. But this official collection is actually known as the “enhanced” version, because the General Register Office (GRO) staff who use it are slowly—very slowly—adding details transcribed from the original vital certificates. These details include mothers’ maiden names for births registered from 1900 to 1914 and some earlier ones. GRO staff also are “coupling” brides and grooms, so the spouse is shown in most marriage entries from 1903 to 1939. If you’re researching in the 20th century, these are great improvements.

**8 IrishNewspapers.com**  Ancestry.com launched this new-kid-on-the-block subscription website <[www.irishnewspapers.com](http://www.irishnewspapers.com)> in March, making it accessible only in the United States. Its searchable digitized newspapers come from the Dublin-based, family-owned IrishNewsArchive.com, which has long had a faithful following in Ireland but was relatively unknown elsewhere.

The titles on the new site include 37 local, regional and national newspapers from across Ireland, some of which date back to the 18th century. The most recently published editions stop at 1980, but this may be extended in time. Among the major titles are the *Freeman’s Journal*, *Belfast*

*Newsletter*, *Independent* and *Irish Press*, each an excellent source of death notices as well as reports from criminal courts, Board of Guardian meetings, and coroners’ inquests.

The interface and search function at IrishNewspapers.com echoes Ancestry.com’s Newspapers.com website <[newspapers.com](http://newspapers.com)> (which focuses on US papers but has a few of the titles also on IrishNewspapers.com). You can search for keywords, places, names and dates, and there’s a useful Papers section to explain the coverage and scope of the titles.

**9 The National Archives: Genealogy** The website of the National Archives of Ireland <[genealogy.nationalarchives.ie](http://genealogy.nationalarchives.ie)> has been much-loved since the day in late 2007 when it launched the first lot of indexed 1911 census returns. Irish genealogy research turned a corner and has never looked back. Seven years later, this site offers access to the complete 1901 and 1911 censuses; every single surviving scrap from earlier censuses; tithe applotment books dating from the 1820s and 1830s; Calendars of Wills and Administration (1858-1922); and a small, sad collection of wills written, often hurriedly, by soldiers departing to fight for the British Army in the Great War or in the Second Anglo-Boer War in South Africa.

Pre-1858 testamentary records will join the lineup this year, as will the Griffith’s Valuation Field, House and Quarto Books collection. The latter notebooks were created by valuers between 1848 and 1860; they often contain names of property occupants. All records here are free and link to images of the original material. They’re also available with a World subscription to Findmypast.com, an Ireland subscription via Findmypast.ie, and on FamilySearch.org.

**10 National Library of Ireland Roman Catholic Parish Registers** At press time, the National Library of Ireland (NLI) <[www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie)> is preparing to launch a free online home for its collection of Ireland’s Roman Catholic parish registers in July. Dating from the 1740s to the 1880s, these registers cover 1,091 parishes and consist primarily of baptismal and marriage records.





The microfilms on which the registers were recorded have been converted into nearly 400,000 digital images, which will be browseable by parish location only. You won't be able to search for a name, at least not initially, so the new site won't be of immediate help to those who don't know where in Ireland their immigrant ancestors came from. But it's likely that genealogy data sites will rush to begin indexing the images as soon as the new site is live.

For those who already can pinpoint a parish of origin, this website heralds a new era for Irish genealogy by making old church records for its majority religious group readily accessible. Information in the registers varies from parish to parish, but typically includes the dates of the events and the names of key people, including godparents or witnesses.

In the absence of an index to these records, researchers will find it helpful to use the new site in conjunction with RootsIreland.ie (see No. 12) and IrishGenealogy.ie.

## 11 Public Record Office of Northern Ireland

While it doesn't offer online access to census, vital or church records, the website of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) <[www.proni.gov.uk](http://www.proni.gov.uk)> is a top-drawer destination for family historians with connections to the six counties of Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone.

Judge not the site's plain appearance. Exploration here is well rewarded with heaps of background information, an extensive range of downloadable family history guides and several useful databases served up free of charge.

These databases, most of which link to images of the original material, are accessible from the home page (under Online Records on the right side). They include Will Calendars (1858-1965), Street Directories (1819-1900), the Ulster Covenant (1912), Freeholders Records (pre-1840), and the Londonderry Corporation Records (minutes, 1673-1901). The most popular database, online since 2014, is Valuation Revision Books (1864-1933), which record Griffith's Valuation changes in size, quality and value to all properties, both rural and urban, as well as the names of their occupiers and owners. Changes were recorded in different colors of ink,

one color for each year, and can help to establish significant dates in a family's history, such as dates of death, land sale or migration. Note that these revision books are often referred to as "cancelled books," especially in the Republic of Ireland.

The PRONI site also offers a rather unassuming Name Search database. Be sure to dip in. It allows you to search a number of indexes to pre-1858 wills, surviving fragments of the 1740 and 1766 religious censuses, 1775 dissenters' petitions and coroners' inquest papers from 1872 to 1920.

## 12 RootsIreland.ie \$

If ever a website demanded a researcher to draw breath and make its acquaintance before attempting to tease out its treasures, RootsIreland is it. The nonprofit Irish Family History Foundation (IFHF) manages this site and its database of 20 million transcriptions of records (not linked to images) held by the IFHF network of county and regional genealogy centres. The site, which has switched from a pay-to-view system to a subscription model, is best known for its church records of mixed denominations, but it also has transcribed birth, marriage and death certificates for some counties.

Before going anywhere near the search page, you're best off reading the FAQs or at least looking for your ancestral counties on the list of available records. Collections in the database date between 1700 and 1920 and some of the parish registers have significant gaps, so you really do need to check that records for the year, religion and parish or district you're interested in are available.

Although transcriptions are still being added (2015 has already seen new records for counties Clare, Carlow and Wexford) and are generally of a high standard, the bulk of the parish register transcriptions are of variable quality. Think creatively, especially with regard to the spelling of surnames, if you can't find a record you believe should be available. ■

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## WORKBOOK

# Draft Records

BY SHELLEY K. BISHOP

♣ **US MILITARY DRAFT** records are potentially untapped sources of information on male ancestors and sometimes their female family members. Even men who didn't serve in the military may have had to register under one of the conscription acts for the Civil War, World War I, or World War II. Online resources make it easy for today's savvy researcher to find and use draft records as a springboard for family history discoveries. We'll give you an overview of registration records created between 1862 and 1945, identify where to find them, and explain how to expand on the information they provide. We'll also give your skills a boost with more resources to explore, a bit of practice interpreting these records, and a worksheet to chart your searches.

### Clues in Draft Records

Local districts or boards conducted draft registrations to identify men eligible for service in times of war—specifically, the Civil War and World Wars. Many of the registration lists and cards these boards created survive, providing a deep well of data on several generations of American men. Those born as early as 1816 and as late as 1920 could've been eligible to be drafted for one or more of these three wars.

Questions the draft boards asked registrants varied from war to war, and even from one registration to the next. Typically, you'll find information about the registrant's name, residence, age, date and place of birth, race, US citizenship and occupation.

Depending on the registration, you also may discover details about your ancestor's previous or current military service, his marital status, the name and address of a relative or contact person, a physical description, and his signature.

These findings can move your research forward in many ways. Birth information can tell you about births that occurred long before a state began keeping vital records. A

woman named as a man's nearest relative might narrow your search for a marriage record. An immigrant's claim to be a US citizen could lead to naturalization papers.

Draft information is also useful in combination with other evidence. Residence and occupation details can distinguish your relative from others with the same name. If you're "missing" a person in census records, a draft registration can indicate where he lived. Descriptions of height, build, hair and eye color can help you visualize your ancestor.

### Civil War

Prior to the Civil War, the federal and state governments relied on offering free public land to attract volunteer soldiers in wartime. These bounty land incentives were discontinued by 1855. The Civil War brought an unprecedented need for troops on both the Union and Confederate sides. Governors from Maine to Mississippi issued calls for volunteers beginning in 1861. As the war escalated, the need for men reached crucial heights. Without the promise of free land to spur recruits (an incentive in previous wars), how could this demand be met?

Although the idea of a national draft faced considerable opposition in the North, it seemed the only viable solution. The Enrollment Act of 1863 required all men age 20 to 45 to register within their Congressional District, which often covered several counties.

The first Union registration took place July 1, 1863. Three smaller enrollments followed. For eligibility purposes, men were divided into classes. Those age 20 to 35 years, plus unmarried men age 36 to 45, were designated Class I. Nearly everyone else was Class II. In addition to name and residence, Northern draft registers typically show:

- age on the registration date
- whether white or colored

- occupation or trade
- whether married
- state or country of birth

The registrations were assembled into consolidated lists, many of which survive. You can find digital images of existing consolidated lists on subscription site Ancestry.com (which you can use free at libraries offering Ancestry Library Edition). For more-focused results, search within the site's US Military Records collection, <[ancestry.com/cs/us/militaryrecords](http://ancestry.com/cs/us/militaryrecords)>. As a starting point, enter your ancestor's name and where you think he lived in 1863.

The original consolidated lists are in Record Group 110 (Records of the Provost Marshal General) at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) <[archives.gov](http://archives.gov)> in Washington, DC. The registration books from which they were compiled, which sometimes contain additional information, haven't been microfilmed or digitized. They're held at NARA's regional branches.

If your ancestor registered, does that mean he served in the war? Not necessarily. Those in Class II were rarely made to serve. Each community and state was responsible for filling a quota of men. If they could raise that number with volunteers, no one needed to be drafted, so volunteers were heavily encouraged. Some states, like Massachusetts and Ohio, never had to call up draftees. Even if they were drafted, men could be exempted from service if they were:

- physically or mentally impaired
- only sons of dependent widows or infirm parents
- widowers or orphans supporting young children

## FAST FACTS

- **RECORD COVERAGE:** Civil War, World War I, World War II
- **KEY DETAILS IN DRAFT RECORDS:** name, address, age, date and/or place of birth, race, citizenship status, marital status, employment information, name of nearest relative, physical characteristics
- **FIND ORIGINAL RECORDS AT:** National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) <[archives.gov](http://archives.gov)> in Washington, DC; Southeast Region Archives in Atlanta; other NARA branches, and National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis
- **RESEARCH ONLINE AT:** Ancestry.com <[ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)>, FamilySearch.org <[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)>, Findmypast.com <[www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com)>, Fold3.com <[www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com)>
- **SEARCH TERMS:** *Civil War* (or *WWI* or *WWII*) plus *draft records*; *US draft registration records*
- **ASSOCIATED/SUBSTITUTE RECORDS:** military enlistment rosters, service records, state adjutant general's records, military unit histories, military pension records, newspapers, and county histories

Men born as early as 1816 and as late as 1920 could've been eligible to be drafted for one—or more—wars.

- non-citizens who hadn't declared intent to naturalize
- convicted of a felony
- able to furnish a substitute or pay a \$300 fee

The South also instituted a draft. The Confederate Conscription Act of 1862 required all white males age 18 to 35 years to register. This was extended to ages 17 to 50 by early 1864. Ministers, teachers, civil officials, tradesmen, railroad workers and plantation owners were typically exempt. Initially, a man could hire a substitute and pay up to \$1,000 to avoid service, but that allowance was scrapped in late 1863 due to bitter opposition. Men already enlisted for one-year terms automatically saw their service extended to three years.

There are no consolidated lists of Confederate registrations. Each Southern state conducted its own drafts. Many times, troops raised by conscript were merged with existing units. Relatively few Confederate conscription registers survive today, and those that do can be difficult to find.

The best place to begin your search for any existing Southern conscription records is in the state adjutant general's records. Some states compiled and published adjutant general records after the war. Georgia, for instance, published six volumes of *The Confederate Records of the State of Georgia*, which are available free on Google Books <[books.google.com](http://books.google.com)>.

If your ancestors lived in Tennessee, search the Civil War Sourcebook <[www.tnsos.net/TSLA/cwsourcebook](http://www.tnsos.net/TSLA/cwsourcebook)>, a digital collection of official records, diaries, letters and newspaper articles. South Carolina offers information about its Confederate Military Records at <[archives.sc.gov/recordsheld/militaryrecords](http://archives.sc.gov/recordsheld/militaryrecords)>. To learn more about Civil War records for individual states, North or South, see <[www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/United\\_States\\_Civil\\_War\\_1861\\_to\\_1865\\_Part\\_1](http://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/United_States_Civil_War_1861_to_1865_Part_1)>.

## World War I

The need for a national draft emerged again in 1917 when the United States entered the Great War. In response, Congress created the Selective Service System, consisting of local and state draft boards under the Office of the Provost Marshal. Three registrations took place in 1917 and 1918. In total, about 24 million men between the ages of 18 and 45, including noncitizens, were required to register. If your relative was born between September 1872 and September 1900, he was probably among them.

A draft board official asked questions of each man and recorded the answers on individual, two-sided cards. The questions varied by registration, but in general noted:



## AT A GLANCE:

# CIVIL WAR DRAFT LIST

EDULE II.—CONSOLIDATED LIST of all persons of CLASS II, subject to do military duty in the 6th Montgomery and Lehigh State of Pennsylvania, enumerated John J. Freedly, Provost Marshal.

RESIDENCE.	NAME.	DESCRIPTION.			PLACE OF BIRTH. (Naming the State, Territory, or Country.)	FORM
		AGE 1st July, 1863.	WHITE OR COLORED.	PROFESSION, OCCUPATION, OR TRADE.		
Shohocken	1 Egbert Frank.	44	White	Blk Smith	Penna.	
"	2 Elliot Samuel	35	"	Laborer	Delaware	
W. Norristown	3 Enderby Joseph	39	"	Restaurant	Germany	
"	4 Edler William	42	"	Grocer	"	
"	5 Epwright Rudolph	44	"	Shoemaker	Montg. Co	
Holtenham	6 Engle Albert J	36	"	Merchant	Penna	
"	7 Elliot William	44	"	Broker	Engl and	
"	8 Emory John	37	"	Farmer	Maryland	
"	9 Engle Eli	43	"	"	Penna.	

**1** This list (which is shown split into halves for larger viewing) was compiled in Pennsylvania's Montgomery and Lehigh counties in June 1863. Registrants' names are grouped by township.

**2** Class II lists named primarily married men between ages 35 and 45. Younger and unmarried men were in Class I.

**3** Occupation can help identify ancestors. Compare this listing of Samuel Elliot, laborer, to 1860 and other census records.

**4** Place of birth offers clues to where men came from. Samuel Elliot may appear in Delaware records.

**5** Union Civil War draftees could pay a \$300 commutation fee or send a substitute in their place, as William Elliot did.

military duty in the 6th Congressional District, consisting of the Counties of Pennsylvania, enumerated during the month of June, 1863, under direction of

PROFESSION, OCCUPATION, OR TRADE.	PLACE OF BIRTH. (Naming the State, Territory, or Country.)	FORMER MILITARY SERVICE.	REMARKS.	
Smith	Penna.			1
laborer	Delaware			2
restaurant	Germany			3
grocer	"			4
shoemaker	Montg. Co			5
merchant	Penna			6
broker	Engl and	Drafted	Sent a Substitute.	7
farmer	Maryland			8
"	Penna.			9

**CITATION FOR THIS RECORD:** "U.S. Civil War Draft Registrations Records, 1863-1865," digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 March 2015), entry for Samuel Elliot in list for 6th Congressional District, Class II: Montgomery and Lehigh, Pennsylvania (June 1863).

## AT A GLANCE:

# WWI DRAFT CARDS

REGISTRATION CARD									
SERIAL NUMBER		311		ORDER NUMBER		6209			
1 <i>Gilman Stanton Sanborn</i>									
(First name) (Middle name) (Last name)									
2 PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS:									
<i>Cody Park Wyo</i>									
(No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)									
Age in Years		45		Date of Birth		<i>Sept 29 1872</i>			
3		4		Month		Day		Year	
RACE									
White		Negro		Oriental		Indian		Citizen	
5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		6		7		8		9	
U. S. CITIZEN									
ALIEN									
Native Born		Naturalized		Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registrant's Majority		Declarant		Non-declarant	
10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		11		12		13		14	
15 If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject?									
16 PRESENT OCCUPATION					17 EMPLOYER'S NAME				
<i>Farmer</i>					<i>J. B. Goff</i>				
18 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS:									
<i>Cody Park Wyo</i>									
(No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)									
NEAREST RELATIVE		19 <i>Gertrude D Sanborn</i>							
Name		20 <i>Cody Park Wyo</i>							
Address		(No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)							
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE									
<i>G. D. Sanborn</i>									
(Registrant's signature or mark)									
(OVER)									

**1** At 45 years old, Gilman Stanton Sanborn was at the upper end of the draft range. The Selective Service Act required men age 18 to 45 to register.

**2** Draft cards can substitute for early birth records. Gilman was born in 1872. Like many states, Wyoming didn't begin keeping birth records until the early 1900s.

**3** WWI draft cards indicate whether immigrants were naturalized or if not, whether they had declared intention for citizenship.

**4** Who was Gertrude D. Sanborn, Gilman's nearest relative? Draft records often provide evidence of wives, parents or siblings.

**5** Each card has two sides. The reverse notes the man's physical description, with a stamp showing where he registered.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT									
PARK-C									
DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT									
HEIGHT			BUILD			COLOR OF EYES		COLOR OF HAIR	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<i>Blue</i>		<i>Brown</i>	
31 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he obviously physically disqualified? (Specify.)									
<i>no</i>									

**CITATION FOR THIS RECORD:** "U.S. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 March 2015), card for Gilman Stanton Sanborn, serial no. 311, Cody, Park County, Wyoming.

Local Board for the County of	
State of Wyoming.	
Cody, Wyoming	
(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)	
(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the area in which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in this box.)	
C3-6171 (OVER)	



**TIP:** If a WWI registrant was African-American, the registrar was to tear off the lower left corner of his draft card.



- name and age
- address
- date and place of birth
- citizenship status
- occupation and employer
- race and physical description

Some registrations also asked marital status, the name and address of the man's nearest relative, his father's birthplace, or information about dependants. Unless he was illiterate, the registrant signed his card to verify accuracy. Draft boards used the cards to determine which men to call up for service. They kept docket books listing the names and actions taken. Only a small percentage of those who registered were actually drafted.

Because they cover nearly 98 percent of the male population between 18 and 45 years old, WWI draft cards represent a tremendous resource for genealogists. Even if your ancestor didn't have to register, he or she might've had a brother who did. The cards can reveal unknown birth dates and places, the names of wives and/or parents, and clues to marriages and naturalization.

Digital images of WWI draft registration cards are online at Ancestry.com, Findmypast <[www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com)> and the free FamilySearch.org <[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)>. When searching these sites, start by entering your ancestor's name and likely residence at the time of registration. If you get too many results, filter them by adding a probable birth year and/or state. If you get too few, try variant name spellings (you can use the asterisk wildcard to substitute for zero or more letters). Each record consists of two images, the front and back of the card—be sure to view both.

The original registration cards are in Record Group 163 at the National Archives Southeast Region in Atlanta. Local docket books, classification lists, and miscellaneous papers relating to draft records may be found in state archives or National Archives regional locations.

## World War II

When the Great War ended, so did military registration. There was no ongoing US draft in the 1920s and 1930s. Then escalating world conflict led to the first-ever peacetime registration in October 1940. Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941, thousands of men voluntarily enlisted in the service. But with war raging on multiple fronts, the need for soldiers, airmen, and sailors was far greater. Congress passed a new Selective Service Act requiring all males between ages 18 and 45 to register.

For the most part, WWII registrations of young men (born from February 1897 to July 1927) haven't been publicly released due to privacy concerns. But some restrictions are lifting. Full-color digital images of North Carolina draft registrations are now online in the WWII collection at Fold3 <[www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com)>. Ancestry.com has a collection of US WWII

## Websites

- **Ancestry.com: Draft, Enlistment and Service records**  
<[search.ancestry.com/search/category.aspx?cat=126](http://search.ancestry.com/search/category.aspx?cat=126)>
- **Cyndi's List: US Military Records**  
<[cyndislist.com/us/military/records](http://cyndislist.com/us/military/records)>
- **FamilySearch Wiki: US Military Draft Records**  
<[www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Draft\\_Records](http://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Draft_Records)>
- **FamilySearch.org**  
<[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)>
- **Findmypast.com**  
<[www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com)>
- **Fold3** <[www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com)>
- **Linkpendium** <[www.linkpendium.com](http://www.linkpendium.com)>:  
Click links for the place you're interested in, then look for a military records section.
- **Military Classifications for Draftees**  
<[www.swarthmore.edu/library/peace/conscientiousobjection/MilitaryClassifications.htm](http://www.swarthmore.edu/library/peace/conscientiousobjection/MilitaryClassifications.htm)>
- **Mocavo: Military Draft Records**  
<[www.mocavo.com/records/Military-Draft-Records](http://www.mocavo.com/records/Military-Draft-Records)>
- **National Archives: Military Records**  
<[archives.gov/research/military](http://archives.gov/research/military)>
- **National Archives Regional Record Centers**  
<[archives.gov/locations](http://archives.gov/locations)>
- **National Personnel Records Center**  
<[archives.gov/st-louis](http://archives.gov/st-louis)>
- **Online Military Indexes & Records**  
<[www.militaryindexes.com](http://www.militaryindexes.com)>
- **Selective Service Records**  
<[archives.gov/st-louis/archival-programs/other-records/selective-service.html](http://archives.gov/st-louis/archival-programs/other-records/selective-service.html)>

## Publications and Resources

- *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives of the United States*, 3rd Edition, by Anne Bruner Eales and Robert M. Kvasnicka (NARA)
- *One Million Men: The Civil War Draft in the North* by Eugene Murdock (State Historical Society of Wisconsin)
- *Uncle, We Are Ready! Registering America's Men, 1917-1918* by John J. Newman (Heritage Quest)
- *US Military Records* by James C. Neagles (Ancestry)



## Put It Into Practice

1. True or False: Only men who were US citizens were required to register for the draft.

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2. The first draft registrations in the United States occurred during the:

- a. War of 1812
- b. Civil War
- c. World War I

3. WWI draft registrations covered nearly what percent of males between 18 and 45 years old?

**EXERCISE A:** Go to the United States WWII Draft Registration Cards, 1942 collection on FamilySearch.org <[www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1861144](http://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1861144)>. Enter the name *Roy Eberhard* in the name search box. Select the first result, Roy David Eberhard of Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio. View the document and answer the following:

1. Where and when was Roy born?

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2. What company did he work for?

---

3. Who was named as the person who would always know his whereabouts?

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4. How tall was Roy? (Hint: click the Image arrow button to advance to the next image.)

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**EXERCISE B:** Choose an ancestor who was of age to be registered for the draft during the Civil War, World War I or World War II. Search for him in the databases on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, Findmypast.com, or Fold3, as discussed in this article. What did you find?

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Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947, which includes cards from Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana and North Carolina. In time, cards from other states will likely become available.

The fourth registration, conducted April 27, 1942, required men born between April 28, 1877, and Feb. 16, 1897, to register. These men were 45 to 64 years old at the time. Nicknamed the “Old Man’s Draft,” this registration included many who’d already served—or at least registered—for World War I. Its intent was to gather information about older men’s skills and occupations that could be utilized in manufacturing, transportation and other aspects of the war effort.

As for the First World War, registrants’ answers to several questions were recorded on two-sided cards:

- name and age
- date and place of birth
- residence address
- telephone number
- place of employment or business
- employer’s name and address
- name and address of a contact person
- race and physical characteristics

The “Old Man’s” registration cards for most states have been microfilmed and digitized. You’ll find collections on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org and Fold3. On any of these sites, start with a general name and place search, being aware of possible spelling variations. Narrow your search with additional fields, such as birthplace and year, if necessary.

Keep in mind that you should find two images for a single registrant. The cards for Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin were microfilmed in such a way that the front of one man’s card appears with the reverse of the previous man’s card, so take particular care to get the right match when working with the records of those states.

These collections aren’t complete, however, as registration cards for some states were destroyed before being microfilmed. No Fourth Registration records survive for Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina or Tennessee. For New York, only those from the boroughs of New York City survive. Other states or parts of a state may be missing from a particular database. If you don’t find the results you expect, read the notes that accompany the database to learn about its coverage.

The original cards for all six WWII draft registrations are at NARA’s National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis. They’re divided into two groups: one for the Old Man’s Draft, and one for the other five drafts of younger men. You can request a copy of an individual’s card using the Selective Service Record Request form, available at <[archives.gov/st-louis/archival-programs/other-records/na-13172.pdf](http://archives.gov/st-louis/archival-programs/other-records/na-13172.pdf)>.

## Using Draft Records

Once you’ve found a draft record, you’ll want to get all the information you can from it. What does it tell you about your

## MORE ONLINE

### Free Web Content

- Military research guide  
<[familytreemagazine.com/article/At-Your-Service-Military-Research-Guide](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/At-Your-Service-Military-Research-Guide)>
- Military records resources  
<[familytreemagazine.com/article/Military-Records-Toolkit](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/Military-Records-Toolkit)>
- WWI genealogy resources  
<[familytreemagazine.com/article/World-War-I-Genealogy-Resources](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/World-War-I-Genealogy-Resources)>

### For Plus Members

- 10 Best Civil War Websites  
<[familytreemagazine.com/article/10-best-civil-war-websites](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/10-best-civil-war-websites)>
- Document Detective: WWI Draft Registration Cards  
<[familytreemagazine.com/article/Document-Detective-WWI-Draft-Registrations](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/Document-Detective-WWI-Draft-Registrations)>
- Websites for finding WWI records  
<[familytreemagazine.com/article/ww1-genealogy-websites](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/ww1-genealogy-websites)>

### ShopFamilyTree.com

- Civil War Research video course  
<[shopfamilytree.com/civil-war-research-independent-study-course-1](http://shopfamilytree.com/civil-war-research-independent-study-course-1)>
- *The Genealogist's US History Pocket Reference* <[shopfamilytree.com/genealogists-us-history-pocket-reference-u0774](http://shopfamilytree.com/genealogists-us-history-pocket-reference-u0774)>
- US Military Records video course  
<[shopfamilytree.com/us-military-records-download](http://shopfamilytree.com/us-military-records-download)>

ancestor? Is this consistent with what you already know about him? There might've been many men with similar names in any given state. Analyzing the information is crucial to making sure you've found the right one.

Compare facts such as birth date and place with information from census records and death records. The name of a specific town or township of birth is an important detail, giving you a place to dig for other family records. If the draft registration database reveals other men with the same surname born in the same place, you'll want to investigate a possible kinship between them. Could they be brothers?

Consider his occupation as well. Draft records generally provide more details about employment than census records. You may find the name and address of the company or landowner your ancestor worked for. Exploring this further can provide a lot of interesting material for your family history.

Many draft records asked questions about birthplace and US citizenship. If your ancestor wasn't born in America, his draft registration might indicate if he'd started or completed the naturalization process. Based on this, you can search for a passenger list, declaration of intention, and/or final papers. Non-citizens who agreed to fight for the United States often received expedited naturalization after the war.

Both WWI and WWII draft records list the name and address of the nearest relative or "person who will always know your address." Who did your ancestor put down for this? Married men typically named their wives. Unmarried or widowed men might've named a parent, sibling, friend or employer. If you don't recognize the person your ancestor named, try to determine who he or she was. You could discover a relationship you didn't know about.

It's particularly interesting to compare the cards of those who registered as young men for World War I and again in the Old Man's Draft for World War II. These records give you snapshots of your ancestor at two points in time, about 25 years apart. Note the differences in address, employment, nearest relative or contact person and physical traits.

Finding a draft record naturally leads to the question of whether or not an individual actually served in the war he registered for. To determine this, you'll want to learn more

### PUT IT INTO PRACTICE ANSWERS

- 1 False 2 b 3 98 percent **EXERCISE A** 1 Allentown, Pa., March 9, 1894  
2 Pennsylvania Railroad 3 Mrs. Roy D. Eberhard 4 5 feet, 5 inches

about the records created for that particular war. Enlistment records, service records, discharge papers, state adjutant generals' reports, and published unit histories are among the places you might look. Many of these resources are now available online. For an overview, see the United States Military Records wiki on FamilySearch.org <[www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/United\\_States\\_Military\\_Records](http://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/United_States_Military_Records)>.

You might also find accounts of men who served in a county history book or local newspapers. During the Civil War, newspapers often published notices of enlistments and events. They sometimes published lists of those attending GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) events in later years, or noted an old soldier's service unit in his obituary. Also search for your potential Civil War ancestor in the 1890 veterans' census, soldiers' home records and pension files. Because they usually contain a good deal of documentation, pension records are particularly worth seeking out. Our Military Pension Records Workbook <[shopfamilytree.com/workbook-military-pension-records](http://shopfamilytree.com/workbook-military-pension-records)> can help you get started.

Cemetery records are another way to confirm service, as many veterans' gravestones bear military inscriptions or markers. Gravestone photographs and memorials on Find A Grave <[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)> and Billion Graves <[billiongraves.com](http://billiongraves.com)> often indicate military service. Some towns and counties have constructed veterans' memorials or published lists of those who served in various conflicts.

Military draft registrations served a specific government purpose in times of war. Knowing how and why draft records were created can help you use the information to better understand your ancestors. Draft registrations can provide evidence of birth dates and places, marriages, names of parents or other relatives, addresses, employment, physical appearance, and more. Used in conjunction with other evidence, these details allow you to develop a fuller picture of your ancestor's life, and pave the way to future discoveries. ■

# MILITARY DRAFT RECORDS WORKSHEET

Use this form to organize information that can help you in your search for an ancestor's military draft registration. If you're not sure of a detail, leave it blank or provide your best guess(es) based on research you've done. Update the information as you discover more.

## ANCESTOR INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date/approximate year \_\_\_\_\_

Birthplace \_\_\_\_\_

State(s) and county(ies) where he resided before and during the war \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Names of parents \_\_\_\_\_

Name of first/only wife \_\_\_\_\_

Marriage date and place \_\_\_\_\_

Name of second wife, if any \_\_\_\_\_

Marriage date and place \_\_\_\_\_

## MILITARY DRAFT ELIGIBILITY

For which war(s) was ancestor eligible to be registered for the draft?

☐ Civil War (men born about 1811-1848) ☐ World War I (men born about 1872-1900) ☐ World War II (men born about 1877-1925)

If Civil War, Union or Confederate side? \_\_\_\_\_

How old was person when war began or US entered war? \_\_\_\_\_

(Civil War began 1861; US entered World War I in 1917; US entered World War II in 1941)

Have you found any indication that this person served in the war? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, what and where found? \_\_\_\_\_

## DRAFT RECORDS SEARCH TRACKER

Source/Database Searched	Website or Repository	Date Searched



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Voice Dial	FREE	FREE
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# HOT D.A.M.

Find out how a  
digital asset management  
workflow makes it easy to organize  
and back up your family photos.

BY DENISE MAY LEVENICK



🐼 **ANYONE ON “IMAGE overload”** can learn a few things from professional photographers who work with images every day. A successful wedding photographer, for example, captures hundreds of images for an event and selects only the best shots to show the couple. Favorites are edited and assembled into the final product: the wedding album. The entire process from image capture to final product is called the photographer’s workflow. Repeating the steps over and over makes the routine so familiar, he can do it almost without thinking.

You probably have a workflow, too, although it might not feel productive if you’re drowning in digital images. My new book *How to Archive Family Photos* (Family Tree Books) <[shopfamilytree.com/how-to-archive-family-photos](http://shopfamilytree.com/how-to-archive-family-photos)> helps you keep your images organized, identified, secure, and accessible for the next generation to admire. In this excerpt, I’ll break down what efficient digital image management looks like, and suggest three sample workflows to help you corral your digital photo chaos.

## Managing your assets

A comprehensive system for capturing, importing, renaming, editing, resizing, tagging, captioning, archiving, backing up, and exporting image files is called digital asset management, or DAM. Pros take time to study and understand each step in the DAM process to develop their own efficient and personalized workflow. Family photographers and family historians can benefit from a simplified DAM system focusing on their most typical assets—photos and video files.

Effective DAM involves more than a tidy file folder system and meaningful file names, but the benefits are greater, too. DAM harnesses the power of your computer for better access and identification with labels and tags. Good DAM lets you organize your images in a way that makes sense, guides you through all steps from image capture to sharing, offers data security with backups and archival protocol, and provides tools for collaboration and future users. Before you set up your DAM system, you’ll need to:

**1. CHOOSE A MASTER STORAGE LOCATION.** Your master image collection—I call it a Photo Library—should be consolidated and managed in a central location, preferably your computer or external hard drive.

**2. SET UP YOUR PHOTO LIBRARY.** Navigate to your Master Storage Location and create a folder named Photo Library.



**TIP:** If you use photo-management software, make all changes to file names or folders within the software. If you use Windows Explorer or the Mac Finder window to move or rename files, the software won’t be able to locate the image.

Inside this folder, create a folder for the year and inside it, one for the month of the images you’re ready to import.

When you’re ready to begin using your DAM workflow, start with new photos and work forward. Select a Digital Photo Birthday on an easy-to-remember date, such as your birthday or a major holiday. From that day forward, manage all images with your new system. As you have time, move old photos into the system. Don’t try to do it all at once or you’ll be overwhelmed.

## Digital Asset Management Workflow at a Glance





## Going with the flow

In its simplest form, DAM is all about capturing, storing, and accessing your images. Each step of the workflow refines these tasks so you can easily locate images for editing and sharing the end product, and be confident that your photo collection is secure.

**1. IMAGE CAPTURE:** This includes whatever method you use to acquire an image—typically, a camera. You might also scan documents and download historical photos from the Internet. Digital images are usually captured to hard drives, memory cards, flash drives or a device's internal memory.

**2. IMAGE IMPORT:** The next step is moving images from the capture device or temporary storage location into long-term storage. You may be able to automate this with photo-management software such as Adobe's Lightroom <[lightroom.adobe.com](http://lightroom.adobe.com)> or Photoshop Elements <[adobe.com/products/photoshop-elements.html](http://adobe.com/products/photoshop-elements.html)>.

**3. RENAMING:** Rename images from their generic camera-generated file names to something meaningful. It should reference people, dates, places and events depicted, such as *TomSchmidt-birthday1972*. Photo-management software can make this easier with batch file-naming features.

**4. BACKING UP:** Regularly back up your image collection on another kind of media, such as on an external hard drive

DAM harnesses the power of your computer for better access and identification with labels and tags.

or with an online backup service such as Backblaze <[www.backblaze.com](http://www.backblaze.com)> or Shutterfly's ThisLife <[www.thislife.com](http://www.thislife.com)>. After a session spent editing or transferring photos, I back up my own photo collection to my "Image Vault" on an external hard drive in my home.

**5. TAGGING:** Labels, keywords and other information added to an image file are known as metadata. They add historical context to an image, make it easy to find, identify people and places, and help you designate favorite photos. This is an often-overlooked step, but an important one for a family historian. Fortunately, your camera adds the most important metadata, the date, automatically.

**6. ARCHIVING:** This takes your regular backups a step further to preserve your digital photos for the long term. You'll rarely access this Photo Archive. Keep it on physical media such as DVDs or another external hard drive, and migrate it to new media as needed to avoid obsolescence. You can save time with backup software configured to update only edited and new files.

**7. EDITING AND SHARING:** Your images might as well be in a shoebox if you don't export them into a shareable format so family and friends can enjoy them. These files need different handling from your archival and working digital files, such as resizing, cropping or other editing.

See the sample workflows on the opposite page for tools and techniques you could use to set up your DAM. Workflow is just another way of talking about a habit, something you've learned to do that now comes effortlessly. You want your digital photo workflow to be as seamless as driving a car. It'll take practice and repetition, but eventually, you won't even have to think about it. Time to hit the road. ■

## MORE ONLINE



### Free Web Content

- Photo Detective blog <[blog.familytreemagazine.com/photodetectiveblog](http://blog.familytreemagazine.com/photodetectiveblog)>
- Scanning photos, step by step <[familytreemagazine.com/article/scanning-family-photos](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/scanning-family-photos)>
- Podcast interview with Denise Levenick: Protect your family archive from disaster <[familytreemagazine.com/article/episode76](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/episode76)>



### For Plus Members

- Digitizing photo negatives <[familytreemagazine.com/article/now-what-positive-outlook](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/now-what-positive-outlook)>
- Create a digital family archives <[familytreemagazine.com/article/family-archivist-creating-a-digital-family-archive](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/family-archivist-creating-a-digital-family-archive)>
- Project: Re-create Grandma's scrapbook to share <[familytreemagazine.com/article/digitize-family-books-and-heirlooms](http://familytreemagazine.com/article/digitize-family-books-and-heirlooms)>

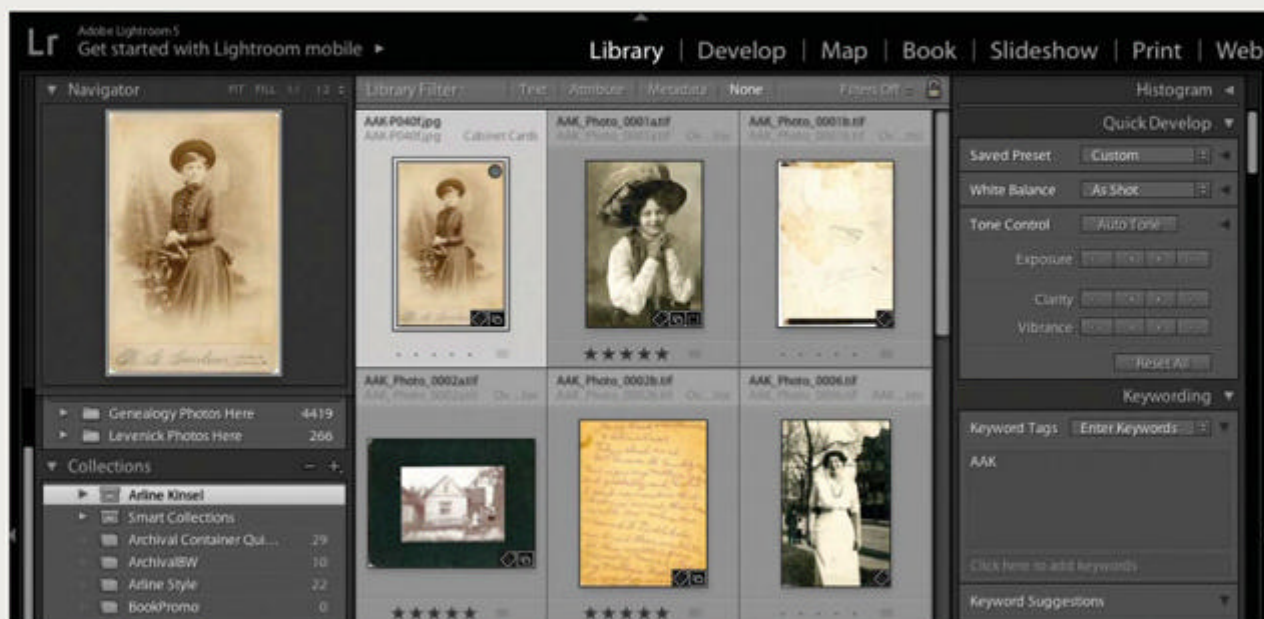


### ShopFamilyTree.com

- How to Archive Family Photos <[shopfamilytree.com/how-to-archive-family-photos](http://shopfamilytree.com/how-to-archive-family-photos)>
- How to Archive Family Keepsakes <[shopfamilytree.com/ht-archive-family-keepsakes](http://shopfamilytree.com/ht-archive-family-keepsakes)>
- Digitally Archive Your Photos and Documents video class with Denise Levenick <[shopfamilytree.com/digitally-archive-your-photos-and-documents](http://shopfamilytree.com/digitally-archive-your-photos-and-documents)>



**DENISE MAY LEVENICK**, the blogger and archival organization expert behind the Family Curator blog <[www.thefamilycurator.com](http://www.thefamilycurator.com)>, is the author of *How to Archive Family Keepsakes* and the new *How to Archive Family Photos*, from which this article is excerpted. Both books are available from ShopFamilyTree <[shopfamilytree.com](http://shopfamilytree.com)>.



## The Family Shutterbug Workflow

If your family takes photos with multiple cameras and smartphones, you need a strategy that makes it easy to gather all the images into one collection. Designate a computer to hold your photo library and set up everyone's smartphone to auto-sync photos to a cloud service. You can save time by using photo-management software such as Lightroom <[lightroom.adobe.com](http://lightroom.adobe.com)>, Apple Photos for OS X <[www.apple.com/osx/photos](http://www.apple.com/osx/photos)> or Picasa <[picasa.com](http://picasa.com)>.

1. Use your digital camera to capture photos on a memory card. Wi-Fi-enabled Eyefi Mobi SD cards <[www.eyefi.com/products/mobi](http://www.eyefi.com/products/mobi)> instantly upload images to your computer. Configure your smartphone to auto-sync images to a cloud service such as Backblaze <[www.backblaze.com](http://www.backblaze.com)>, Dropbox <[dropbox.com](http://dropbox.com)> or Google Drive <[drive.google.com](http://drive.google.com)>.
2. Import images from memory cards and cloud accounts to your family photo library.
3. Rename the images and add

tags using photo-management software, or by using the Finder window (Mac) or Windows Explorer (Windows) folder.

4. Back up folders and image files to an external hard drive.
5. Burn image folders to archival DVDs and store off-site.
6. Share photos.

## The Mobile Genealogist Workflow

Genealogy research at a library or cemetery might yield digital images on cameras, smartphones, mobile scanners and repository computers. You'll need to access the images for later analysis, adding source information and adding to your online tree.

1. Set up your smartphone and tablet to automatically upload photos to a cloud storage service. Consider using an Eyefi Mobi SD card in your camera and portable scanner, and in repository equipment if possible, to transfer photos to your computer. You might use a smartphone app such as CamScanner <[www.camscanner.com](http://www.camscanner.com)> to "scan" documents.
2. Share selected images via email and social media from your phone or wi-fi-

enabled camera. View documents scanned on your smartphone on the larger screen of your tablet or computer.

3. At home, transfer all images to your Photo Library folder.
4. Rename, tag, and add metadata.
5. Back up images to your Image Vault.
6. Include your photos in your regular Photo Archive routine.

## The Workflow for the Overcommitted

Something is better than nothing. Try this system, which at least ensures your photos are backed up, if you take pictures exclusively with a mobile device, but you don't want to think about managing a digital photo collection.

1. Set up a cloud storage account with Dropbox, Google Drive, Backblaze or ThisLife <[www.thislife.com](http://www.thislife.com)>.
2. Set up your smartphone and tablet to auto-sync with the cloud storage service.
3. Regularly order archival DVDs of your photo library, if possible.



A detailed illustration of a hand holding a hammer. The hand is rendered in a cross-hatched, woodcut style, with the thumb and index finger gripping the handle. The hammer has a dark, textured head and a smooth handle. The background is a light green with a subtle pattern of small dots and lines. The title 'GENEALOGY' is written in white, serif, all-caps font on a dark blue banner. The subtitle 'MYTH Busters' is written in white, serif, all-caps font on an orange banner.

# GENEALOGY

## MYTH Busters

**Don't let these three common historical "myth-takes" prevent you from discovering the true stories of your ancestors.**

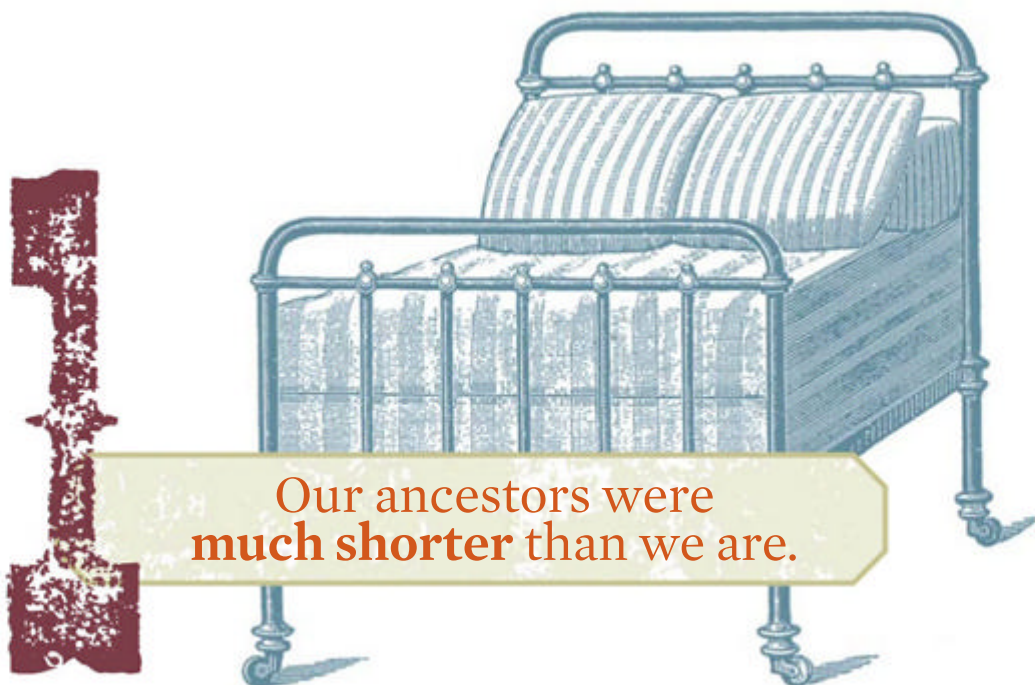
**BY NICK D'ALTO**

**⚒ HAVE YOU EVER** said—or heard a friend say—something like: “There’s no sense looking for old letters from my ancestors. After all, most people couldn’t read or write back then,” or “My great-great-granddad disappears at age 56. Oh well, people died young in those days.”

Our ideas about what our ancestors’ lives were like are sometimes shaped by historical “facts” repeated over and over again by parents and teachers, in books and on the internet. When you hear something often enough, it becomes part of your reality—or your ancestors’ reality.

Many of those often-repeated assumptions are simply not true. Still, these “myth-takes” about earlier days can affect the way you pursue your family history, becoming road-blocks to finding your ancestors and understanding their lives. So let’s do some genealogical myth busting to get past the falsehoods and reveal the truth about your ancestors.





**Our ancestors were  
much shorter than we are.**

**T**his myth is just a tall tale. Studies performed a few decades ago at Colonial Williamsburg <[www.colonialwilliamsburg.com](http://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com)> determined that the average Revolutionary War soldier stood near 5 feet, 8 inches tall; just a shade shorter than US soldiers serving during the 1950s. Archeologists have calculated that Medieval men in Northern Europe stood about this height, too; not terribly far from average height today.

Then why has this short story been around so long? Like many historical misconceptions, it's inspired in part by faulty evidence. For example, old homes often featured small rooms, low doorways and narrow stairs. (One of my own family houses dated to 1830. I was always ducking.) But this scaling stems from early construction methods, including post-and-beam framing, and the challenges of fireplace heating—not because the home's original occupants were tiny.

Antique beds displayed in historic homes also may appear small. “But that’s largely an illusion caused by the high bed-posts, bed curtains and poufy bedding popular in that day,” says Mary Miley Theobald, author of the book *Death by Petticoat: American History Myths Debunked* (Andrews McMeel) and a Colonial Williamsburg historian. “When we measured the beds at Colonial Williamsburg, they varied in size, but none was shorter than today’s standard double bed.”

Diminutive historical gowns are another red herring. “Clothing and fabric was very expensive,” Theobald notes, “so larger dresses were altered and handed down to smaller relatives or daughters.”

You may even have misleading visual evidence of this size myth in your own family trove. Does your great-grandfather

look tiny surrounded by descendants in a photo? Remember, people often lose height and grow frail with age. Your ancestor looked different when he was in his prime.

In effect: Don’t sell your ancestors short. According to centuries of anthropometric data (the study of human stature), height hasn’t changed much until recent times. From 1760 to 1930, the average height of American men varied by about an inch from a norm of 5 feet 7 inches. It’s only after that date when average height starts exceeding this range, mostly owing to improved medicine and nutrition. In 2010, the average US man stood over 5 feet, 9 inches; the average woman, about 5 feet, 4 inches. “So Americans are getting taller,” Theobald notes, “but only recently.”

The US population has always shown some variation in height based on ethnicity. Yet in almost every epoch, Americans have been taller than their European counterparts and have shown fewer differences in height according to economic status. These facts trace to historically better nutrition and less disease in America than in crowded European cities. Poignantly, Plains Indians once stood taller than white settlers in the area, until disruptions to their ancestral ways of life.



**TIP:** Genealogical records including draft registration cards and declarations of intention to naturalize may include your ancestor’s height with a physical description.

Unlike height, however, weight has changed dramatically. For example, at 5 feet 8 inches and 143 pounds, the average Civil War Union soldier was about 40 pounds lighter than the average man of the same height today.

From military draft records to passport applications, you might have loads of height-related data on ancestors. Now you can make better sense of it. Were your kin tall or short for their day? Consider their stature when trying to understand their daily lives and occupations such as farming or factory work.

Studying stature can reveal your ancestors' world, sometimes in surprising ways. For example, there was a post-Civil War dip in the average height of men, but the cause isn't genetic, and US immigration wasn't high during those years. Instead, the data reflect lost stature due to malnutrition and other social conditions marking the transition from farm to factory life. Knowing this can help you appreciate your forebears' decisions during this very hard time.

If you have no idea how tall a relative was, you may be able to make an educated guess by studying his photograph (see

Don't sell your ancestors short.  
According to centuries of  
anthropometric data, humans' height  
really hasn't changed much until  
recent times.

the box below). Also remember that absent illness or other stresses, human height is a largely inherited. So whether you're NBA-sized or closer to an Olympic gymnast, researching ancestral stature can help explain how you stand today.



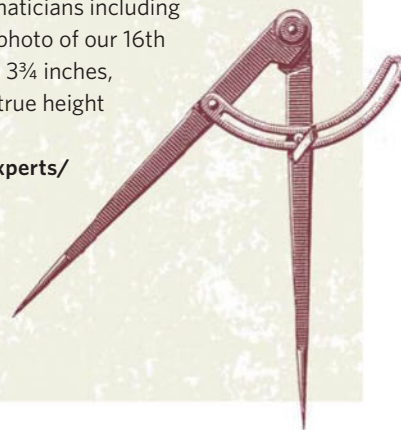
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, LC-DIG-cwpb-04339

## Sizing Up Your Ancestors

Historians use clever techniques to estimate height from old photographs, and you can, too, by trying these techniques:

- In very old (pre-Civil War) portraits, a head high or cropped on the plate could indicate a very tall subject because photographers could make only limited adjustments to early portrait cameras.
- In later, full-body images, you can estimate a subject's height by comparing it against an object of known size in the photo (such as a buggy wheel), provided that both were nearly at the same depth of field (distance from the camera).
- In a large, front-facing photo, use calipers to measure the distance between the subject's eyes, from pupil to pupil. Then measure the subject from head to toe. Divide eyes into height, and multiply by 2.5. This gives the height in inches. Using this method, which is based on anatomical patterns observed by mathematicians including Leonardo Fibonacci, an 1862 photo of our 16th president scales him at 6 feet 3¾ inches, very near Abraham Lincoln's true height of 6 feet, 4 inches.

See [www.archives.com/experts/haas-david/old-photos.html](http://www.archives.com/experts/haas-david/old-photos.html) for more on this and other strategies to estimate a person's height based on a photograph.





## Our ancestors died young.

**N**ot true, at least not to the extent that many of us believe. A 50-year-old in 1850 could expect to live into his or her 70s—not too different from ages folks achieve today. So why does the “died young” myth live on?

In part, it's because understanding average lifespans for past eras is confusing. For example, actuarial tables (which measure human life) do list average life expectancy for a child born in 1850 at just 38 years, disastrously young. “But that includes early deaths from childhood illnesses,” Theobald says. While statistics aren't exact, an estimated one in five Civil War-era children died before age five. Illnesses that are now preventable also claimed many adolescents. And compared to today, death from childbirth was much more common.

“But if you could manage to live past the danger years, your chances for a long life in earlier days were remarkably good,” Theobald says. For example, if you could reach age 40 in 1850, you were nowhere near the end of your life: Life expectancy was about 68 years if you made it that far. Whether through strong natural immunity or luck in avoiding contagions, a surprising number of 18th- and 19th-century Americans lived into old age.

Of course, this in no way downplays how our modern medicine and lifestyle have relieved pain and suffering. Today, longevity begins at birth and more people live longer, better lives. Your ancestors did too often grieve lost children and young adults, but they certainly didn't exist in a society where no one lived to be old. It was a multigenerational world, with parents, grandparents and perhaps great-grandparents, just in different proportions than are familiar to us today. According to federal census records, the United States of 1900 had twice as many children as today for each adult under age 60, but only half as many elderly for each

adult under 60. You may have proof of this in your own family photo album. Those big Victorian-era group photographs, showing lots of children, some adults and a few aged figures capture these ratios.

Dispelling the life expectancy inaccuracy opens up all kinds of research possibilities. After all, who has more birth and death dates at her fingertips than a genealogist? Now you can mine that data in new ways. For instance, are the lifespans you've recorded from old gravestones, obituaries and Bible pages remarkable, or were they normal for your family?

You also can better understand your ancestors' lives by banishing this myth. For example, your turn-of-the-century kin wasn't “old” at 50. No wonder he launched a new business venture, purchased land or set out to cross the continent at that age. He wouldn't have considered himself young, but he could reasonably expect to live many more years.

If you've lost an ancestor (for example, he's disappeared from records but you can't locate a definite death date), don't presume he must have died and stop looking. Statistically, if your ancestor was, say, 45 years old in 1905, there's about a one in 12 chance he'd live into his 80s, meaning you'd need to search up to the World War II era. Go further in the records than your initial instinct suggests. In effect—never say die.



**TIP:** The 1900 and 1910 censuses can provide clues to relatives who died as infants: Compare the numbers in the columns recording how many children a woman had given birth to and how many of those children were still living.





## Our ancestors were mostly illiterate.



**B**ooks and movies often perpetuate the myth of widespread illiteracy in early America. In fact, by 1870, about 80 percent of Americans were judged able to read and write according to the norms of their era. Not too different from the 86 percent judged functionally literate by modern standards.

But didn't shopkeepers in olden days advertise their wares using picture signs (a big boot or a horseshoe) because so many of their customers couldn't read? "That was more about tradition in the trades, not literacy," Theobald explains. It's true that some of our ancestors couldn't read. Censuses from 1870 to 1930, which asked whether respondents could read and write, may indicate such was the case, or you might find an X on a document instead of a signature (though this also could signify illness or advanced age). But that doesn't mean the person wasn't intelligent. Some populations, such as recent immigrants and African-Americans, too often faced extreme challenges in securing schooling. It's also true that compared to today, fewer 19th-century school-age children attended class regularly. But school was arranged differently, especially in rural districts to accommodate the needs of farming families. And

when children could attend school, they often received excellent lessons—better than the rote education we often see portrayed in historical books and movies. In fact, 19th-century schools demanded real achievement from their pupils despite having no computers, smart boards or other modern conveniences.

Having "only" a high school education (like President Harry S. Truman and airplane inventors Orville and Wilbur

### TOOLKIT

- *Death by Petticoat: American History Myths Debunked* by Mary Miley Theobald (Andrews McMeel)
- **Decennial Life Tables for the White Population of the United States, 1790-1900** <[www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2885717](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2885717)>
- **"Every Man Able to Read": Literacy in Early America** <[www.history.org/Foundation/journal/Winter11/literacy.cfm](http://www.history.org/Foundation/journal/Winter11/literacy.cfm)>
- **History Myths Debunked** <[historymyths.wordpress.com](http://historymyths.wordpress.com)>
- **Life Expectancy by Age, 1850-2011** <[www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0005140.html](http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0005140.html)>

- **Life Expectancy Graphs** <[pages.uoregon.edu/maphist/english/US/US39-00.html](http://pages.uoregon.edu/maphist/english/US/US39-00.html)>
- **National Assessment of Adult Literacy: 120 Years of Literacy** <[nces.ed.gov/naal/lit\\_history.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/naal/lit_history.asp)>
- **Snopes.com: History** <[www.snopes.com/history/history.asp](http://www.snopes.com/history/history.asp)>
- **Stuff and Nonsense: Myths That Should By Now Be History** <[www.history.org/Foundation/journal/Winter08/stuff.cfm](http://www.history.org/Foundation/journal/Winter08/stuff.cfm)>
- **The Use of Myth in History** <[www.history.org/Foundation/journal/summer12/myths.cfm](http://www.history.org/Foundation/journal/summer12/myths.cfm)>

Wright) provided our ancestors an excellent start in life. Even earlier in history, widespread literacy among the colonists helped Revolutionary-era pamphlets, such as Thomas Paine's "Common Sense," sell thousands of copies and shape the identity of our nation.

For genealogists, this all means that your ancestors were probably better-educated than you might think. Don't give up on finding their old letters or other handwritten documents. And don't underestimate your forebears' ability to read and understand contracts and other official records you find today. They may have read everything from newspapers to literary classics, or had hobbies that required reading. And by all means, launch a search for their old academic records.

There's nothing like new possibilities to get a genealogist going again. Remember, history wasn't always the way we imagine it. By learning more about it and opening our eyes to our research biases, we might even get past our own past errors and assumptions, and make key discoveries in our family history research. ■

**NICK D'ALTO**, a freelance writer in Bellmore, NY, has discovered Victorian-era ancestors who lived beyond 100 years of age.

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## How to Tell the Truth

Early Americans thought tomatoes were poisonous. They thought window pane bottoms thickened with age because glass flows. And that spices helped mask food that spoiled. These are a few historical sound bites everyone knows—except guess what? None of them is true.

So how do such stories get started? "We look at history through the lens of the present," says Mary Miley Theobald, author of *Death by Petticoat* (a book named for the dramatic but mistaken claim that Colonial-era billowy dresses frequently caught fire as women cooked near the hearth). "We put our values on the past, without knowing what the past was really like. Then when something doesn't fit, we invent a solution."

Like the popular belief that 19th-century artists painted generic portraits, and then added the faces later to save time. "More likely, those pictures look a bit cookie-cutter because the itinerant artists were largely self-taught," says Theobald.

Like modern urban legends, misleading historical trivia also acquires a life of its own because a story sounds charming ("Popcorn was served at the first Thanksgiving"—not likely), or because it offers an exciting tale ("Quilts served as signals to runaway slaves"—there's no historical evidence). "I hear these kinds of stories recited by visitors to historical sites all the time," Theobald muses, "and occasionally, even by sincere, but untrained volunteer docents."

So what's a good way to avoid myth-takes like these, which might cloud your vision of your ancestors' world? "If a story presents us today as being 'better' than earlier people, I'd get suspicious. Or if it makes you think, 'How could they believe stuff like that?'" Theobald advises. "Remember, past people weren't stupid. They just knew different things. Don't underestimate them."





Step back in  
time—and into  
your ancestors'  
world—at these 10  
top living history  
destinations.

BY DANA MCCULLOUGH

familytree  
magazine

10 TOP  
living history  
DESTINATIONS  
2015

# LIVING IN THE PAST



🐾 **LIVING HISTORY PARKS** and museums offer a glimpse into what our ancestors' lives were like years ago. Depending on your destination, you may get to stroll through historical villages, do old-fashioned farm chores and ride a stagecoach or steam engine locomotive.

Of course, there are too many excellent living history destinations to include on just one list. In choosing 10 to feature here, we gave priority to locations that emphasize interactivity and hands-on experiences, and that got great visitor reviews. We also looked for destinations located around the country. (To learn about other museums across the country where you can discover history up close, visit the Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums website <[www.alhfam.org](http://www.alhfam.org)>.)

In addition to the historical activities you'll do and see at each place, most destinations also have shops to explore and eateries where you can grab a bite to eat. Keep in mind that not all activities are offered year-round and many sites offer special events periodically. Be sure to check with each destination before you visit to make sure you'll get to see and do all things you want while you're there, as well as to confirm admissions prices and parking fees. Then be ready with your walking shoes, a camera and a sense of adventure.

## 1 Colonial Williamsburg

Williamsburg, Va. | <[www.colonialwilliamsburg.com](http://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com)>

Colonial Williamsburg, open year-round, is the cream of the crop when it comes to living history destinations. You could easily plan a vacation around your visit here. This village showcases 88 original historical buildings and 500 reconstructed buildings from the Colonial and Revolutionary War era. Single-day and multi-day admission passes are available starting at \$40.99 per adult. Youth tickets are about half the adult price; children under 6 get in for free. Tickets include access to Revolutionary City buildings, museums, theater performances and re-enactments. Some tours and evening programs cost extra.

■ **IF YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS:** Plan to spend at least a half day here. Start at the visitors center. Then take shuttle to the Colonial village, where you can visit homes of the town's famous residents such as Declaration of Independence signatory George Wythe and business magnate John D. Rockefeller, Jr., or take a guided tour.

■ **IF YOU HAVE A DAY:** Step inside the courthouse, tavern, capitol, governor's palace and other buildings to talk to costumed tradesmen, shopkeepers, political figures, towns-women and slaves. Ask them about their jobs and daily lives—they'll answer in keeping with the characters they portray. Witness revolutionists expressing their views in the streets,

Main Street at Greenfield Village features the home and bicycle shop of aviation pioneers Wilbur and Orville Wright. Henry Ford had both buildings relocated from Dayton, Ohio.



The Governors Palace in Colonial Williamsburg was reconstructed on the original site after a fire destroyed the first building in the 1930s.

take part in re-enactments of court sessions and see a military demonstration of soldiers off to the battle of Yorktown. Kids can play games of the era, help with gardening and food prep, and dress in rentable period garb (ask at the Visitor Center).

■ **IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN A DAY:** Visit the town's two museums, inside the Public Hospital of 1773: one has exhibits of 18th- and 19th-century mental illness treatments, and another highlights antiques and decorative art from the 1600s to 1800s. Check out an evening event, too, such as a ghost tour, 1706 witchcraft trial or guided tour with pirate tales.

## 2 Conner Prairie

Fishers, Ind. | <[www.connerprairie.org](http://www.connerprairie.org)>

This interactive history park highlights life in the mid-1800s, with indoor and outdoor exhibits offering many hands-on opportunities for adults and children. Indoor exhibits are open year-round, and everything's open from late March to early November. Admission prices here vary, depending on the season and what attractions are open. Summer season prices are \$16 per adult and \$11 for children ages 2 to 12. Balloon flights cost an additional \$15 per person.

■ **IF YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS:** Check out the 1836 Prairietown, where you'll see a blacksmith, one-room schoolhouse, pottery maker and Whitaker's Store. Costumed interpreters give classes in the schoolhouse, share local gossip and teach you skills of the era. Also visit the two-story homestead of settler William Conner, for whom the park is named. The 1823 home of the fur trader and Indiana statesman is believed to be one of the state's earliest brick buildings.

■ **IF YOU HAVE A DAY:** Stop by the Loom House near the William Conner Homestead to learn how to spin and dye yarn. Don't miss the Lenape Indian Camp, where you'll see canoes and wigwams and listen to music of water drums

## Get Outta Town!

Walk through history at one of these top living history destinations.



and gourd rattles. In addition, check out the 1863 Civil War Journey exhibit, where you can cross a covered bridge, help gather soldiers' supplies and participate in military drills.

■ **IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN A DAY:** Try your hand at an old-fashioned craft: make soap, use an antique printing press, decorate quilt squares or weave fibers. New for 2015 is Conner Prairie's 1859 Balloon Voyage, an area dedicated to the story of John Wise, a balloonist who attempted America's first airmail delivery from Lafayette, Ind., using a hot air balloon. The Balloon Voyage area showcases a re-created downtown Lafayette town square with a post office, dry goods store, pharmacy and photo studio, as well as displays about the science of ballooning. Visitors even can take a hot air balloon flight.

### 3 Greenfield Village

Dearborn, Mich. | <[www.thehenryford.org/village](http://www.thehenryford.org/village)>

If you've seen CBS Saturday morning TV shows, you might already be familiar with this destination featured in "The Henry Ford Innovation Nation" <[www.thehenryford.org/innovationnation](http://www.thehenryford.org/innovationnation)> with CBS news correspondent Mo Rocca. Greenfield Village, near Detroit, showcases historic buildings and homes that Henry Ford had moved here from their original locations, as well as exhibits on transportation and innovation history. The interactive map at <[www.thehenryford.org/village/map.aspx](http://www.thehenryford.org/village/map.aspx)> can help you plan

your visit. Admission to the village (including the historic homes) is \$25 per adult and \$18.75 for children ages 5 to 12. An unlimited daily ride pass is \$16. Admission to the Henry Ford Museum, IMAX theater, and Ford Rouge Factory Tour is additional, ranging from about \$16 to \$20 per person.

■ **IF YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS:** Stroll the streets of the village and stop by Noah Webster's home (where he wrote the first American dictionary), a courthouse where Abraham Lincoln practiced law, a bike shop owned by the Wright Brothers, a home where poet Robert Frost lived and several houses of varying types from the 1650s to the 1930s. Plus, see working farms with demonstrations of 19th-century farm chores, an old sawmill and shops. A 1931 Ford Model AA bus chauffeurs visitors from site to site within the village.

■ **IF YOU HAVE A DAY:** Be sure to visit all the buildings that showcase innovations in America, such as Thomas Edison's laboratory and the replica of the factory where Henry Ford built his first automobiles. Take advantage of interactive experiences: Go for a spin in a Model T, watch 1867 baseball, ride a 19th-century steam engine train through the village and whirl around on a 1913 carousel.

■ **IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN A DAY:** Explore the Henry Ford Museum, which has exhibits highlighting artifacts from American history, such as the limousine carrying John F. Kennedy when he was assassinated, the bus where Rosa Parks stood her ground, a camp bed George Washington slept

in during the Revolutionary War, and historical and replica airplanes from 40 years of aviation history (including a replica Wright Flyer and a 1939 Sikorsky helicopter). The Benson Ford Research Center also lets visitors access its archives focusing on innovation and the American experience.

## 4 Nevada City Living History Museum

Virginia City, Mont. | <[www.virginiacitymt.com/living.aspx](http://www.virginiacitymt.com/living.aspx)>

This Gold Rush-era living history museum showcases 100 buildings from 1863 to the early 1900s. On special Living History weekends throughout the summer, costumed interpreters portray events that happened in the mining town of Alder Gulch (located near Virginia City and Nevada City). There are sights to see in all three towns. Admission for living history experiences at Nevada City is \$10 per adult and \$8 for youth. Train rides are separate, and combo tickets for sites and train rides are \$16 for adults and \$12 for youth. Couple, family and senior day passes also are available (and include panning for gold) starting at \$35.

■ **IF YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS:** Check out the frontier mining town of Nevada City, which includes homes, barns, a railroad depot, dry goods store, bakery, fire station and other structures. Take part in hands-on activities such as preparing an old-time recipe in one of the cabins, working with the town blacksmith or playing 1860s saloon games. You might even witness local events such as a miner's court trial.

■ **IF YOU HAVE A DAY:** Ride the train to neighboring Virginia City, where you can hop on a 25-minute narrated stagecoach tour of Alder Gulch and hear tales of stagecoach robberies and striking gold.

■ **IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN A DAY:** Stop by the Nevada City Cemetery, or attend the theater to see the Virginia City Theatre Co. <[www.virginiacityplayer.com](http://www.virginiacityplayer.com)> put on an authentic 19th-century melodrama. Also check out the River of Gold Mining exhibit and pan for gold at a mining dredge between Virginia City and Nevada City.

## 5 O.K. Corral

Tombstone, Ariz. | <[www.ok-corral.com](http://www.ok-corral.com)>

The Gunfight at the O.K. Corral, one of the most widely known shootouts in the American West, was made famous by movies such as the 1993 *Tombstone*. Here, you can learn about the events that led up to this gunfight (which didn't actually happen at the corral), as well as the town of Tombstone's silver mining history and the great fire that destroyed much of the town in 1882. This destination is located about 70 miles southeast of Tucson, Ariz., so account for travel time in your plans. Admission, including

The O.K. Corral made famous by the legendary shootout (which actually occurred several doors down from the corral's rear entrance) burned down in 1882, but visitors can walk inside a reconstructed corral as it appeared in 1880.

Living history parks and museums offer a glimpse into what our relatives' lives were like decades—even centuries—ago.

the a gunfight re-enactment, is \$10; children under age 6 are admitted for free.

■ **IF YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS:** See a re-enactment of the gunfight between lawmen Wyatt Earp, Doc Holiday, and Virgil and Morgan Earp, and cowboys from the Clanton and McLaury families.

■ **IF YOU HAVE A DAY:** Walk through Tombstone and the O.K. Corral as they appeared in the 1880s, tour a gallery with old photos of Apache warrior Geronimo and others, and have the town blacksmith stamp your name in an old horseshoe. A museum of Arizona's oldest newspaper holds the original 1881 reports of the gunfight and exhibits on newspaper printing in the 1880s. You also can ride in a stagecoach and pose for old-fashioned family photos.

■ **IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN A DAY:** Visit other sites in Tombstone, including the Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park and the Boothill Cemetery to see the graves of the men who died in the famous gunfight.





## 6 Old World Wisconsin

Eagle, Wis. | [oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org](http://oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org)

Located a short drive from Milwaukee, visitors can experience 1880s farm life and see a 19th century rural village. The site is open May through October. Admission is \$19 for adults, \$10 for children 4 to 12, and free for younger children. Senior and student discounts are available.

■ **IF YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS:** Visit a German farm and get your hands dirty as costumed interpreters guide you through typical chores, teach you about the livestock and show you how to use old-fashioned farm equipment. Attend class in a one-room schoolhouse and try 1890s cycling by peddling a reproduction tricycle.

■ **IF YOU HAVE A DAY:** Stroll through the Crossroads Village to see an 1870s blacksmith and shoemaker and talk to the local general store shopkeeper. Purchase a “coin” to buy old-fashioned sodas and food at the store. Explore all the ethnic areas that feature what life was like for African-Americans as well as Polish, German, Czech, Welsh, Irish, Danish, Finnish and Norwegian immigrants.

■ **IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN A DAY:** Come during a designated week, weekend or month in the summer to try games

from the late 1800s, including golf, croquet, football and basketball; see how Laura Ingalls Wilder lived (June and July); or catch a vintage “base ball” game (select Saturdays). Old World Wisconsin also offers kids’ adventure camps and adult workshops in historical skills such as rug-braiding and Norwegian spoon carving.

## 7 Plimoth Plantation

Plymouth, Mass. | [www.plimoth.org](http://www.plimoth.org)

This destination tells the story of Plymouth Colony, where the pilgrims landed in 1620. Admission prices vary depending on the specific sites you wish to see. A summer season combination ticket to view all three sites (Plantation, Grist Mill, and *Mayflower II*) is \$36 for adults and \$22 for children ages 3 to 12. Passes also are available to see just one or two sites.

■ **IF YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS:** Start at the Visitor Center and watch an orientation film, and then wander the streets of a 17th-century English village to see more than 14 re-created structures. You can interact with costumed interpreters portraying actual residents of the colony and see daily cooking and chore demonstrations. Also explore the Wampanoag



The 17th-Century English Village at Plimoth Plantation in Plymouth, Mass., is a re-creation of the small farming and maritime community the *Mayflower* Pilgrims built along the shore of Plymouth Harbor. Visitors will see costumed role-players, reproductions of the types of objects the Pilgrims owned, aromatic kitchen gardens and heritage breeds of livestock.





Homesite, which showcases the lives of this American Indian tribe in the 1600s.

■ **IF YOU HAVE A DAY:** After visiting the main Plimoth Plantation, drive to the site of the *Mayflower II*, a reproduction of the ship that brought settlers to the Plymouth Colony. Take a tour to learn the stories of its passengers and crew.

■ **IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN A DAY:** While you're at the main plantation, visit the Craft Center for a lesson in the basic necessities colonists made by hand, such as candles, woven cloth, furniture, tools, baskets, pottery and more. Then stop by the Plimoth Grist Mill for a corn-grinding demo and a look at the mill's inner workings.

## 8 Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill Harrodsburg, Ky. | <shakervillageky.org>

Although you won't see costumed interpreters here (except for musicians), you'll find plenty of historical sites and experiences to give you a glimpse of life in this historic religious community. Members of the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing first settled "Shakertown" in 1805 and lived here until 1910. Located about 25 miles southwest of Lexington, Ky., the village has more than 3,000 acres and 34 original structures in three distinct areas: the Historic Centre, the Farm and the Preserve. Admission tickets include access to all three areas and cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6 to 12. Riverboat tours, wagon rides and other activities cost extra.



**TIP:** Looking for a living history destination that's closer to your home (or to an upcoming vacation spot)? Just Google "living history" near plus the name of the city or state you're interested in.

You can stay the night in several original buildings at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, Ky., including the Cooper's Shop, East Family Dwelling, Farm Deacon's Shop and others.

■ **IF YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS:** Check out the daily activities in the Historic Centre and on the Farm, which could include hands-on experiences like making a Shaker broom, spinning wool into yarn, tending the vegetable garden and gathering eggs at the Farm.

■ **IF YOU HAVE A DAY:** Listen to live performances of Shaker songs and hymns, and take an hourlong narrated riverboat ride from the Shaker Landing or a wagon ride through the Historic Centre.

■ **IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN A DAY:** Hike among native wildlife and plants in the Preserve, where trails pass scenic overlooks and the remains of Shaker mills. Depending when you visit, you also could attend a Bluegrass music festival, antiques show, craft fair, harvest festival, holiday celebration, choral concert by the Pleasant Hill Singers or an other event. Book a reservation to dine on produce from the village garden at the Trustee's Table and check out the seasonal Shaker-inspired art exhibitions in the Centre Family Dwelling at the Historic Centre.

## 9 Stone Mountain Antebellum Plantation & Farmyard Stone Mountain, Ga. |

<www.stonemountainpark.com/activities/

attractions/Antebellum-Plantation-and-Farmyard.aspx>

This destination, a living history park within a larger park, features original buildings from across the State of Georgia dating between 1783 and 1875. The houses display period furniture and offer a glimpse of life in 18th- and 19th-century Georgia. Admission is \$10 to see individual sites, or you can purchase an Adventure Pass (which includes multiple attractions and seasonal live entertainment) and start at \$25.95 for adults and \$19.95 for children.

The Antebellum Plantation and Farmyard at Stone Mountain Park includes restored historical buildings from around the state of Georgia. In the working cookhouse and garden, demonstrators preserve the culinary traditions of the south.

■ **IF YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS:** Take a self-guided tour of the 19 restored buildings, see (and smell) a working cookhouse and stop by the blacksmith shop to see demonstrations. Visit the Confederate Memorial Carving, a sculpture that includes Civil War figures Jefferson Davis, Gen. Robert E. Lee and Gen. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson.

■ **IF YOU HAVE A DAY:** Go inside the kid-friendly farmyard to learn about livestock in early Georgia, ride aboard a 1940s open-air locomotive on a 5-mile narrated trip around Stone Mountain, and stop by the circa-1850 grist mill.

■ **IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN A DAY:** Visit the Stone Mountain Museum at Memorial Hall to take in the history of the mountain, go to an outdoor quarry exhibit to discover the quarrymen who played an important part in the mountain’s history, attend a concert of the 732-bell carillon that was featured at the 1964 World’s Fair in New York City, or cross a century-old pine-and-cedar covered bridge. Step into the present day in the surrounding park, which has hiking trails, picnic areas, miniature golf and more.



Courtesy of Stone Mountain

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## 10 This Is the Place Heritage Park

Salt Lake City | <[www.thisistheplace.org](http://www.thisistheplace.org)>

Travel back in time to an early settlement of Utah Territory, showcasing more than 50 historical homes and structures. There’s also a *Deseret News* print shop that has a working replica of the press used to print its first newspaper in 1850. Summer admission prices are \$11 for adults and \$8 for children age 3 to 11 for Monday through Thursday, and includes three activities (such as crafts, pony rides or mini-train rides). Tickets costs less on Sundays (\$5 for adults and \$3 for children).

■ **IF YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS:** Ride the train through the Heritage Village for a great view of original and replica buildings, including Brigham Young’s barn, a blacksmith shop, telegraph office, cabinet and chair shop, boot shop, tinsmith shop, social hall, livery stable, replica grist mill and others. Also visit the Native American village, where you can grind corn, see ceremonial dancers and make a craft such as an arrowhead necklace.

■ **IF YOU HAVE A DAY:** Take a walk through the town and talk with costumed interpreters at the shops and pioneer homes. Participate in hands-on activities such as panning for gold, milking cows and other chores, or passing pails of water in a bucket brigade.

■ **IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN A DAY:** Pay your respects at the Pioneer Cemetery, where gravestones of early pioneers have been moved. Take one of the other two train rides offered, and watch out: You might just witness a train robbery. ■

Freelance writer and editor **DANA MCCULLOUGH** is the author of the forthcoming *Unofficial Guide to Family-Search.org* (Family Tree Books) <[shopfamilytree.com/unofficial-guide-familysearch](http://shopfamilytree.com/unofficial-guide-familysearch)>.



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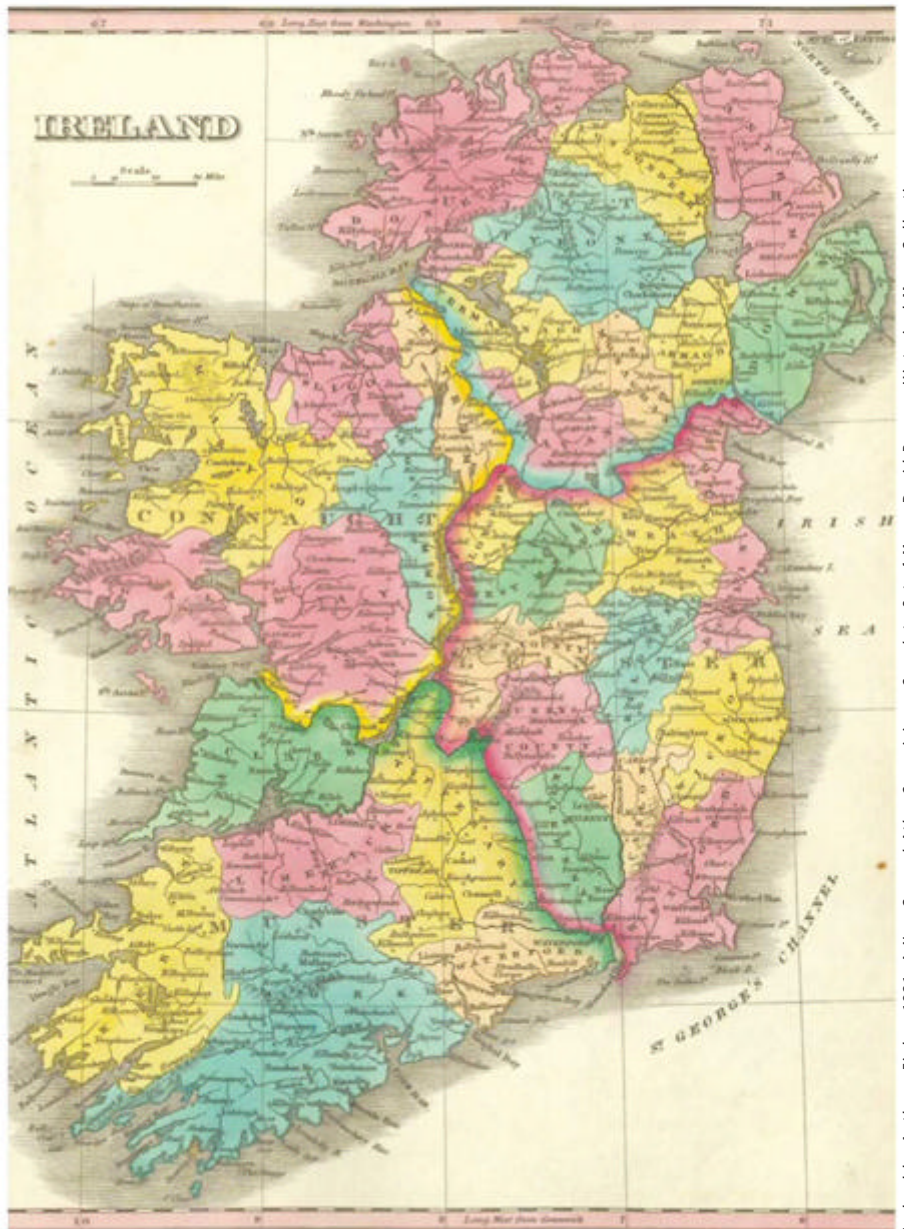
# Before the Famine

🍀 **IN 1831, IRELAND** was still fresh from its union with Great Britain a few decades prior. Many throughout the island opposed British rule, feeding the rise of Irish nationalist groups. The population was growing—but soon the Great Famine would forever change the country's demographics.

According to historical records, the Irish population peaked at 8.2 million in 1841. Then came the potato famine of the 1840s. Starvation killed more than 1 million people and propelled an additional million to emigrate. By 1850, nearly half of all immigration into the United States was from Ireland. The Emerald Isle would never fully recover from the effects of the Great Famine: Today, the population hovers around 6.4 million. This map, published in 1831, depicts Ireland prior to this exodus.

Unfortunately for those with Irish ancestors of that era, only fragments of the country's 1831 census survive, with most pieces relating to County Derry. This enumeration recorded a person's name, age, occupation, relationship to the head of the household, acreage of land holding and religion. Only general statistics survive from later 19th-century Irish censuses, which were destroyed either in the 1922 Four Courts Fire in Dublin or deliberately by government officials.

Find this and more Ireland maps in the new *Family Tree Historical Maps Book: Europe*, available at ShopFamilyTree <[shopfamilytree.com](http://shopfamilytree.com)>. ■



Ireland by Anthony Finley, 1831, A New General Atlas Comprising a Complete Set of Maps, David Rumsey Historical Maps Collection, <[www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY-8-1-500-60042:Ireland](http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY-8-1-500-60042:Ireland)>





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## RAVE REVIEWS

"The Virtual Conference was **amazing!**  
Being able to do this at home and at my  
convenience was a **huge plus.**"

"It was a **real benefit** to be able to download  
these classes and save for future viewing."

"In almost every session, I learned a trick,  
a tip, or a hint that was new to me. And I  
was inspired to reach outside my usual  
genealogy hobby to help others.

**Very exciting!"**

## Brothers and Sisters

🐾 **THERE'S A BIG** difference between knowing who's in a family and knowing who's in a family photograph. Historical documents such as census records tell us the names and ages of parents and siblings, but spotting them in a group portrait can be more difficult to sort out.

Michelle Bliven knows this firsthand. She owns this image of the Douglas family and has done her research to fill in the family tree. What she needs to know now is to how to figure out who's who.

Andrew Douglas (1831-1915) and his wife, Betsy Pettis Douglas (1836-1899), had eight children: Philena "Lena" (born in 1852), Marinda (Bliven's second-great-grandmother, born in 1860),

David (1863), Richard (1864), Frank (1866), Addie (1870), Daniel (1871) and Roxie (1875). Andrew Douglas came from Vermont; Betsy was born in Pennsylvania. It's possible Betsy had other pregnancies in the long gaps between some of these birth dates.

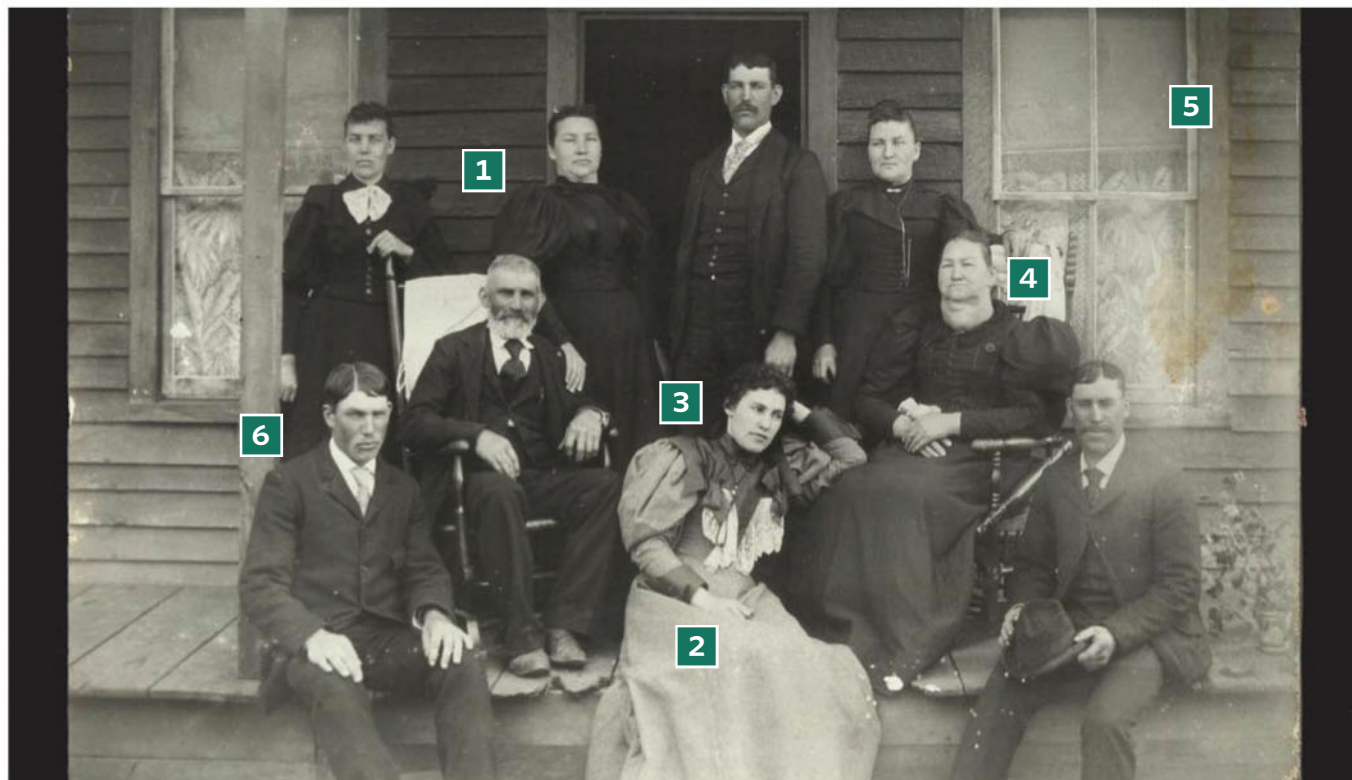
Andrew appears at age 19 in the 1850 census for Covington, Tioga County, Pa., working as a laborer on Frances F. Chase's farm. The harsh winters and rocky soil of Vermont led many folks to leave the state for the West.

In this group portrait, the parents and all but one of their children posed on a porch. Andrew and Betsy sit in chairs. Genealogical research provided Michelle with a key fact: The Douglasses

had moved from Tioga County, Pa., to Eldred, Pa., by 1880.

In the 1900 census for Allegany County, Pa., widower Andrew lives with his daughter Lena and her family. Their son Frank was in Steuben County, NY, in 1900. In 1895, about when this image was taken based on clothing clues, the siblings' ages would be Lena, 43; Marinda, 35; David, 32; Richard, 31; Frank, 29; Addie, 25; Daniel, 24; and Roxie, 20.

A picture like this is a genealogical call to action to learn more about each sibling and gather pictures from their descendants. Tracking down more records will help this family's stories fall into place.







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**1** Billowy upper sleeves with snug lower arms—a style called “leg o’ mutton”—reached their peak of popularity about 1895 and disappeared around 1905.

**2** This sibling wears a light-colored dress, but keep in mind that color is deceiving in 19th-century photographs. Blues look white, oranges tend to black and there’s a whole range in between. Popular shades for day dresses include pearl gray, browns, blues and emerald green. It’s unknown what colors the women in this picture wore, but imagine them in greens and blues instead of black.

**3** The lace and bows suggest this young lady is aware of current fashions and embraces a less-conservative style of dress than her sisters.

**4** Betsy Douglas has a goiter or a tumor. Goiter is associated with an iodine deficiency or another thyroid-related disease, such as Graves’ disease. Examine your old photos for evidence of disease, such as the misshapen fingers of arthritis, which can add to your family health history.

**5** In the 19th century, the elderly usually lived with family. Betsy and Andrew moved in with their eldest daughter, making it possible this is Lena’s home. A description of her house could be in land records, or Blevin could use an address and Google Maps to see if the house is still standing.

**6** Michelle doesn’t think Frank is in this picture. Perhaps the siblings took this picture to send to him in New York. Matching already-identified images to the faces and approximate ages (in 1895) of those pictured helps identify these siblings: left to right, standing, are Addie, Lena, David and Marinda; and seated are Daniel, Roxie and Richard. ■

YOUR TURN

Have you found an old mystery photo? Submit the image and your story following the instructions at [familytreemagazine.com/submit-a-mystery-photo](http://familytreemagazine.com/submit-a-mystery-photo). It may appear on the Photo Detective Blog [blog.familytreemagazine.com/photodetectiveblog](http://blog.familytreemagazine.com/photodetectiveblog).

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Volume XII  
SMITH TO SPAULDING

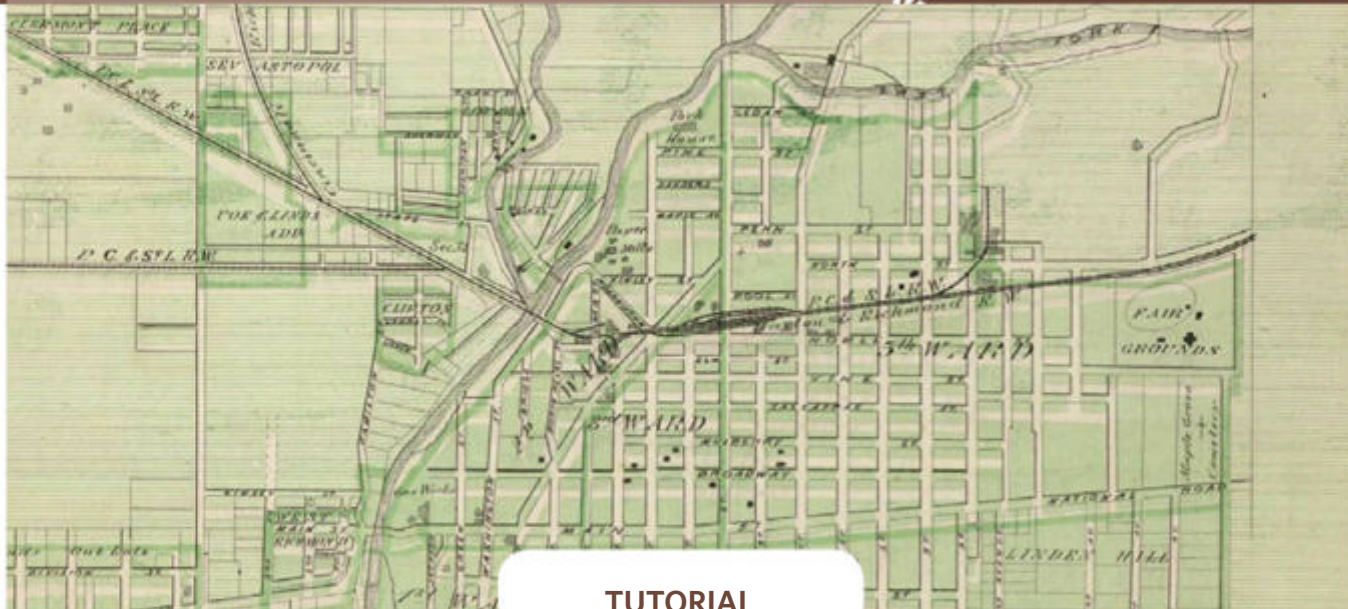
Vol. I Historical Records  
Vol. III, Burtis to Dakin  
Vol. V, Fackert to Haas  
Vol. VII, Hunter to Leavens  
Vol. IX, Mills to Page  
Vol. XI, Rood to Sly

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Vol. VI, Hadden to Hunt  
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Frank J. Doherty

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## TUTORIAL

# Overlay Maps in Google Earth

**GOOGLE EARTH SOFTWARE** <earth.google.com> can illuminate answers to genealogy problems by combining old maps with new ones—layer them together, and you can visualize exactly how an area looked when your ancestors lived there. You'll find hundreds of historical maps spanning the globe within Google Earth, or you might download the perfect map from a website or find it in a book.

If you're working with a paper map, you'll need to convert it to a digital image. I recommend scanning it at the highest resolution your scanner allows—at least 600 dpi (dots per inch), but 1,200 dpi would be best. The higher the resolution, the closer you'll be able to zoom in on the map. Save the image to your computer as a JPG.

Once your old map is digitized, follow these steps to layer it over a modern map in Google Earth.

**1** Open Google Earth on your computer. Enter the geographic location of the map in the Search box and click the Search button to “fly” to that

location. In the Places panel on the left side of the screen, click My Places or a specific folder to select where you want to store your old map overlay. Click the Image Overlay button in the toolbar at top of the screen.

**2** Name your old map in the Image Overlay box that appears. Below that, the description field is a great place to cite the source of the map.

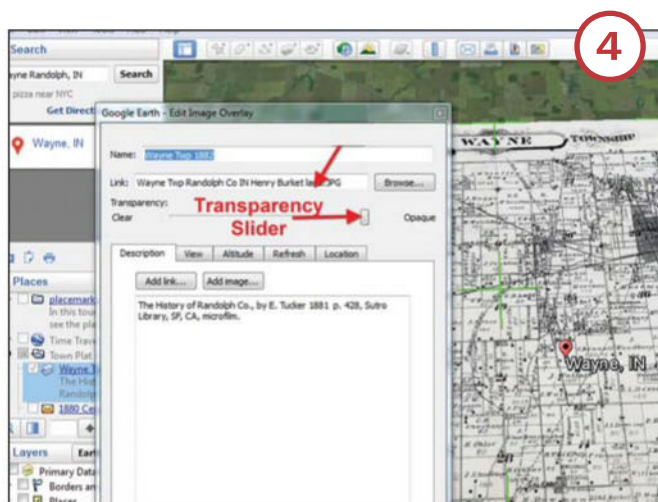
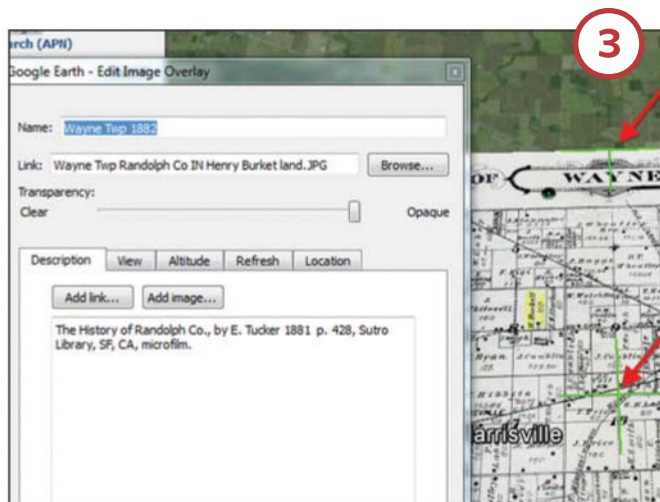
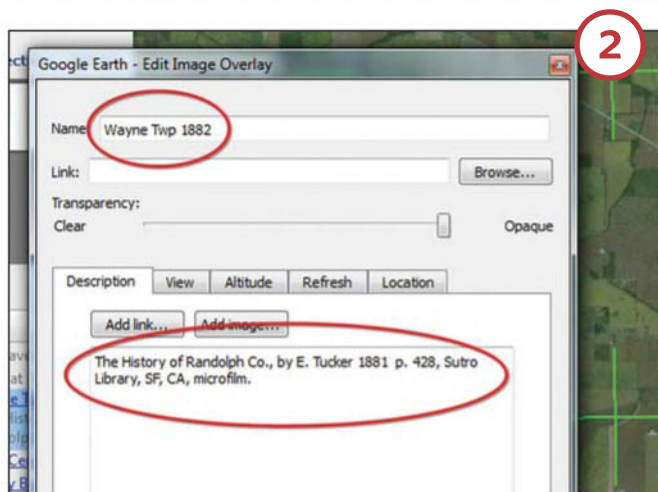
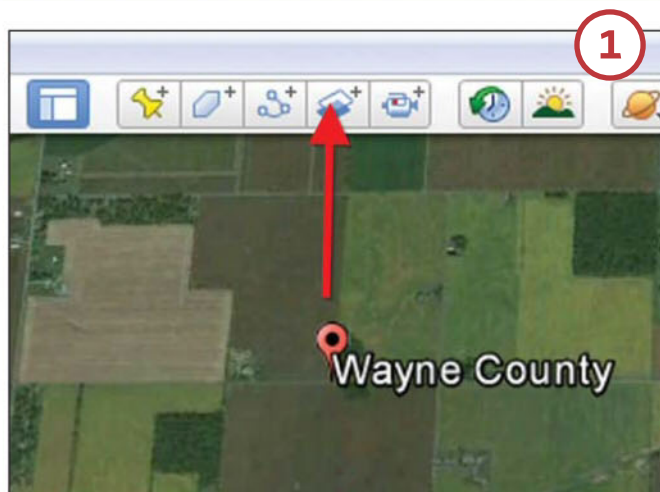
Clicking the Browse button in this box will let you attach the old map that's stored on your computer's hard drive. But then the overlay will work only when viewed on your computer. If you want to share your map and always have the overlay appear, the map image must be hosted on the cloud. Upload it to a free photo sharing website such as Photobucket at <www.photobucket.com>, which gives the image a unique URL that you can then use in the overlay. When viewing your uploaded image in Photobucket, click the Direct URL link to copy the link to your computer's clipboard. Back in Google Earth, click inside the Link field in the Edit Image

Overlay box and paste the URL you just copied. After a few moments, the map will appear on the screen within the green placeholder lines.

**3** Now, you'll georeference the overlay to match up with the modern day Google Earth map. In the Overlay box to the left, slide the transparency lever so you can see the current landscape beneath the historical map. Look for unique features on the historical map, such as railroads, towns and rivers. Most locations have some type of distinct element that will help identify a starting point for positioning the map. By adjusting the transparency tool back and forth, you can see both maps until you get them aligned at a selected point.

If you're fortunate enough to know the land coordinates for the area, you can use Earth Point's Convert Township and Range tool <www.earthpoint.us/TownshipsSearchByDescription.aspx> to plot the outline of the town or specific section of land, making it easier to place a local area map.





Once the maps are lined up at a particular point, you'll notice that much of the rest of the map doesn't match up. To resize the overlay map until everything lines up, hover your mouse over a green crosshairs line (indicated by red arrows above) and the hand icon will turn into a pointer finger. Use the pointer to grab that spot and manipulate the overlay. (If you hover your mouse over the map in an area without a green line, your mouse pointer becomes a hand, allowing you to move Google Earth and your overlay together.)

To resize just the overlay, go to a corner, grab the green line and pull the overlay. Play with it, pulling the various corners until all the landmarks line up.

4 Keep using the transparency lever to check your progress. The goal

is to line up all the landmarks throughout the map. Things may look lined up with the railroad, but the river in the corner might still be out of alignment. In the end, if the historical map you're working with is accurate, it should line up adequately with Google Earth.

When complete, drag the transparency lever all the way to the right so that your old map is opaque. Click OK to close the box. Now you can see your map in Google Earth.

5 If you want to turn this overlay off so it's invisible, look in the Places panel and uncheck the box for the map overlay. When the overlay is activated, you can adjust the transparency of the map using the Transparency button at the bottom of the Places panel. Click the button and a lever will



appear. Slide the lever to adjust the transparency of the map you're displaying on Google Earth. Now you see what the land of your ancestors looked like compared to the same place today.

» Lisa Louise Cooke



## SOFTWARE REVIEW

### FamilySearch Tree Mobile App

■ **VERSION:** We tested version 1.3.1 for Android. Version 1.2.2 for iPhone and iPad is also available.

■ **PRICE:** free from the App Store <itunes.apple.com> and Google Play <play.google.com>

■ **MANUFACTURER:** FamilySearch International <www.familysearch.org/mobile/tree>

■ **SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:** Android 4.0 or later devices; iOS 7.0 or later for iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch

■ **BIGGEST DRAWS:** easy access to your family tree and photos from anywhere

■ **DRAWBACKS:** no record searching

#### Ease of Use

(interface, navigation, help/tutorials)



#### Editing Your File

(adding people, events & photos)



#### Viewing Your Family Tree

(individual, family & pedigree views)



#### Photos, Source Citations and Documents



#### Searching

(online and within your file)



#### Overall Rating



★=so-so ★★=satisfactory ★★★=good  
★★★★=great ★★★★★=exceptional

#### Ease of use

A mobile companion to the FamilySearch Family Tree <www.familysearch.org>, the FamilySearch Tree app lets you view and edit people in the Family Tree and add media files. The app's free, but you need to register for a FamilySearch account. The app makes it easy to access your Family Tree from a mobile device, but it doesn't have as many features as the online version.

#### Editing your file

The app now lets you add and update a relative's profile details, such as names, dates, places and relationships. In Pedigree view, click on a plus sign to add a parent, spouse or child. In Details view, click on a plus sign to add an event or click on a name, date or place to edit. After making a change, you're prompted to enter a source. The Family Tree is updated immediately with your edits. Anything you add to deceased people in FamilySearch Family Tree is publicly visible.

#### Viewing your family tree

The app opens to a four-generation tree view, with you in the home position. Pinch your fingers to zoom in or out. To see more generations, tap an arrow at the top of the pedigree. To search for a person, tap the magnifying glass near the top of the screen. To jump to someone you saw before, tap the history icon in the upper right-hand corner.

Tap a name to see details about a person. Slide the green ribbon to access various headings, or swipe through the sections below. Under the Details heading you can view and edit the person's name and events, such as birth and death. Under the Spouses heading you can view and edit all the person's spouses and children. Under the Parents heading you can view and edit the person's parents and siblings. Tap a name or information in blue to edit it and see who contributed that fact.



#### Photos, source citations and documents

Click on the Photos heading in the green ribbon to view photos. Tap the down arrow at the top of the screen to download a photo. You can add a photo either by taking one with your device or selecting one already in your gallery. The latest version of the app lets you receive notifications when someone else adds photos of your ancestors to the FamilySearch Family Tree. Under the Sources heading, you can add a photo of a source, such as a gravestone or an image of a document. The items are then synchronized with the FamilySearch Family Tree. Under the Charts heading, you can download pedigree, family and fan charts as PDF files. The Stories heading in this version of the app links to FamilySearch.org, where you can add stories.

#### Searching

To search for someone in the Family Tree, click on the magnifying glass at the top right. Search by multiple criteria, including name, date and place of birth, marriage, death, and parent or spouse names. Unlike the online Family Tree, the app does not yet allow for searching any record collections.

#### The verdict

The FamilySearch Tree mobile app lets you easily view and edit your family tree and photos when you're on the go. The FamilySearch Family Tree is an excellent tool for collaborating with other genealogists and preserving your research for posterity, and this mobile app gives you another way to take advantage of that tremendous resource.

» Rick Crume





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## QUICK GUIDE

### Family History Storytelling Websites

It's been said that everyone has a story, but how many of us bother to record the stories in our families? With today's technology, it's easier than ever to save and preserve our precious family memories online. Whether you want to document the important moments in your own life or remember the lives of your ancestors, here are some of the latest websites and apps to make storytelling a snap.

» Lisa A. Alzo

Website	Description	Features	Tips
<b>HistoryLines</b> <historylines.com>	This free website creates a life sketch incorporating historical and cultural background for any ancestor on your family tree.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The clickable Google map lets you see where your ancestor lived in proximity to events of historical significance.</li> <li>■ Import a FamilySearch tree or GEDCOM file, or enter an ancestor's name and life dates.</li> <li>■ Add personal events and family members to the timeline.</li> </ul>	Customize your stories with memories, events and photos. Then share them on social media, embed them on your blog or print them to pass out at a family gathering.
<b>Intent</b> <itunes.apple.com/us/app/id950337052?mt=8>	This iOS app helps connect friends and family through video interviews taken on your smartphone or tablet. The free version includes 1GB of cloud storage. The premium version costs \$4.99/month and offers 40GB of storage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Record a conversation with a friend or family member and upload the interview straight from your device.</li> <li>■ Tag videos based on subject or event or add custom tags, making them easily searchable.</li> <li>■ Use the vast database of questions to drive your interview forward.</li> </ul>	Use Talk About to share your own thoughts or feelings about important people in your life.
<b>StoryPress</b> <storypress.com>	This free, simple storytelling app makes it easy for people to speak, save and share their stories via social media. StoryPress has been called "the Instagram of stories."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The app is primarily audiocentric, but you can incorporate pictures, video and other types of media.</li> <li>■ Create new stories by clicking on the +Story button.</li> </ul>	Choose from a list of story guides or customize a story using the "blank" guide. You can save your story to come back to it later, or publish the story to your library.
<b>StoryWorth</b> <www.storyworth.com>	An online subscription service to preserve and share stories, this app won the grand prize at the 2015 RootsTech Innovator Showdown. Subscribe for a month for \$12.99, or for a year for \$6.49 per month.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Email weekly prompts to relatives asking a question about their lives.</li> <li>■ Family members record responses by email or phone. To record audio, Storyworth will call a person and ask him to record the story, just like a voicemail.</li> </ul>	Everything on StoryWorth is private by default and you have full control over who can see your family's stories.
<b>Treelines</b> <www.treelines.com>	Use your family tree as a starting point to create a timeline with this free online tool. Add memories, photographs, anecdotes and more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Upload a GEDCOM or start your family tree from scratch using the tree builder.</li> <li>■ Add details about the people in your tree through photos or text.</li> <li>■ Tag pages with names, dates and places.</li> <li>■ See a timeline for key events in the person's life.</li> </ul>	For optimal impact, keep each of your pages short with just a few sentences; if you need to say more, start a new page.



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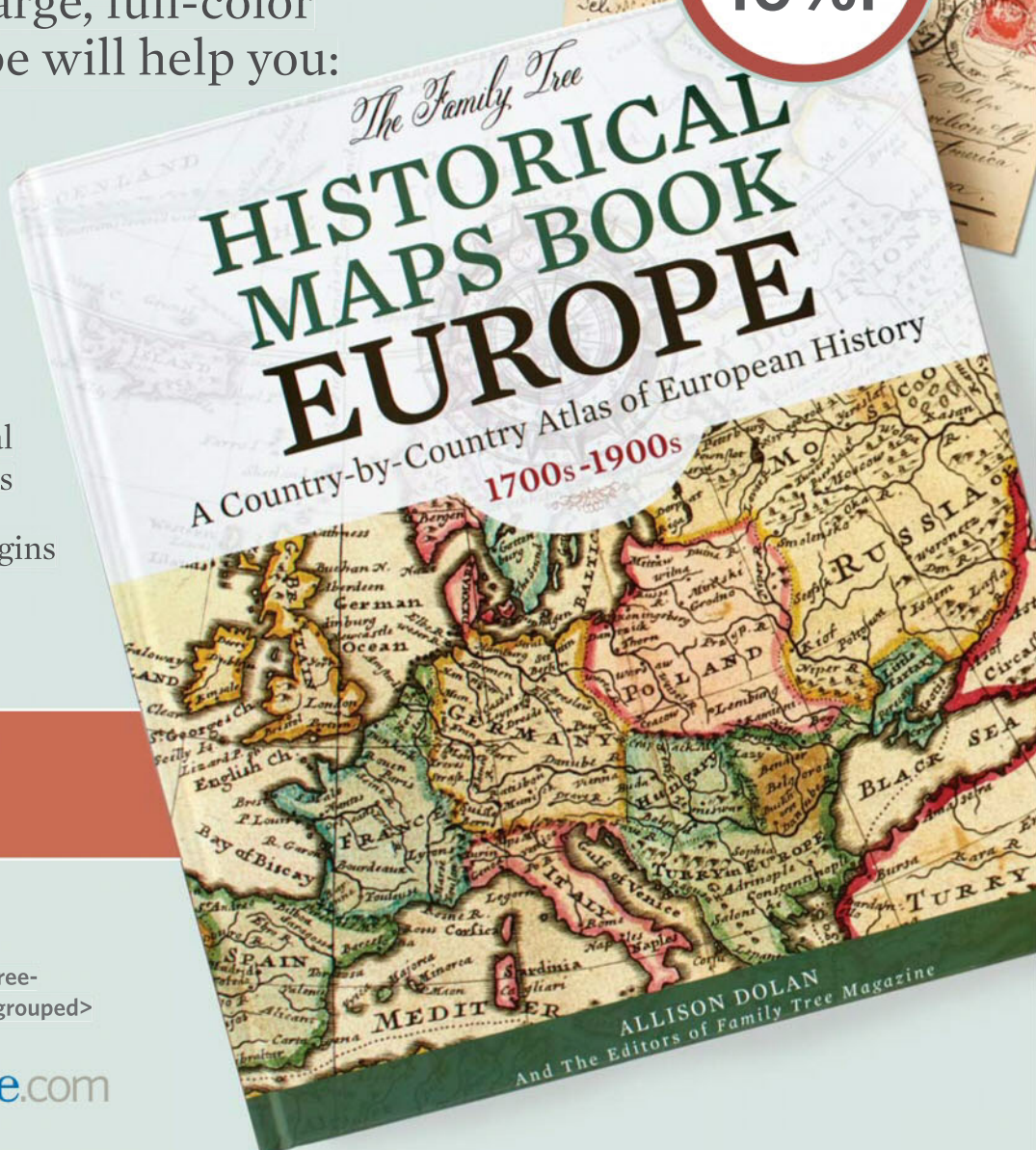
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## TUTORIAL

# Analyze Your DNA with GEDmatch

In the fast paced world of genetic genealogy, everyone is talking about one third-party tool: GEDmatch <[gedmatch.com](http://gedmatch.com)>. Think of GEDmatch as a match-making service for all your possible cousin connections, comparing your DNA results against a database of thousands of other users who've tested with a variety of services. It's an extremely helpful tool, giving you access to vast amounts of data you might not otherwise have seen.

One word of caution: Because this site is run by volunteers and supported by donations, patience is a necessity. It may take several days for your data to upload and be processed. If you use the platform during peak hours, the wait for analysis may be longer than if you use it during off hours. While there's no fee to use the site, there is a suggested donation of \$10 per month—a steal for the incredible data GEDmatch gives you access to. Use the following steps to enter your data in GEDmatch and start finding cousins.

**1** Registering for GEDmatch is easy and free. On the home page, click the Not Registered? link and fill out the form. If you're concerned about privacy, you'll have the option to also enter an alias that will be displayed publicly instead of your name. But you must first include your real name for verification purposes by the site's administrators.

When you register, you'll receive a verification email from the site to prove you're a real person. Follow the instructions in the email to access your profile. Some users have had trouble receiving the verification email; if this happens to you, try a different web browser, computer and/or email address.

**GEDmatch** Tools for DNA and Genealogy Research

### User Registration

First & Last Name:

Optional Alias:

Email Address:

Enter email address again:

Password:

Enter Password Again:

**Register**

Please enter your real name here. Your name is needed by administrators for verification purposes. It may also be displayed in some applications that are not associated with individual results. If you do not want your real name shown in those cases, you may also specify a 'screen name' in the 'alias' field to the left.

You must be able to receive a confirmation email at this address. If possible, it should match the email address used for uploads prior to the registration requirement on this site.

Case sensitive. At least 6 characters. Include at least one number or symbol.

This site and contents ©Copyright 2015-2016 by GEDmatch, Inc.

**2** You can upload “raw” DNA data from the three major US-based genetic genealogy testing companies: Family Tree DNA <[www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com)>, 23andme <[23andme.com](http://23andme.com)> and AncestryDNA <[dna.ancestry.com](http://dna.ancestry.com)>. Your raw data are the test results you download from your testing company, which to you and me look like gobbledygook. Thankfully, the computer program understands the data and can interpret the file into usable information.

Start by clicking on the link for your testing company under the File Uploads section of the website. Each upload link will take you to that company's GEDmatch page, where you'll find detailed instructions on where to retrieve your raw data and how to upload it to GEDmatch. It's very important to follow the directions exactly: If you don't, your data may not upload properly and you'll have to start the process over.

### File Uploads

#### Autosomal raw DNA

**Note: FTDNA customers must upload both autosomal and X-DNA raw data files before they will be processed.**

- FTDNA Family Finder
- FTDNA X-DNA
- 23andMe
- Ancestry.Com

**Do NOT un-zip raw DNA data files before uploading.**

When you upload your raw data to GEDmatch, you'll be asked several questions about your sample. If you administer DNA testing kits for other



family members, you can upload their results here, too. Create a new alias for each individual kit you upload to your account to help you keep them all straight.

**3** When filling out the data upload form, be sure to click the Yes button to give GEDmatch permission to make your data available in the site's public database. Without this button selected, you won't be able to analyze your DNA against other matches in the database. If you forget to do this, you can edit your settings later under the Your DNA Resources section.

**4** Once you've uploaded your data and waited for it to process, it's time to view your matches. Under the heading Analyze Your Data, you'll discover tools for finding matches in the GEDmatch public database. The list of tools may look daunting, but the process is straightforward. You'll need your kit number and the numbers for kits with which you want to do comparisons.

The One-to-Many DNA Comparison tool allows you to look for matches in the GEDmatch database. You can choose to show autosomal or X chromosome results. You'll receive a spreadsheet of matches from the public database covering all three companies. From these results, you can use kit numbers to do further analysis using the One-to-One DNA Comparison and the X One-to-One DNA Comparison tools.

As you gain confidence with the website and gather matching kit numbers you can do even more advanced analyses including phasing, admixtures and 3D chromosome browsing. GEDmatch has tutorials explaining all of these terms.

**5** As a new GEDmatch user, you'll want to check out the Learn More section on the main page, which gives you access to the forums. Use this platform to get answers to your questions or connect with other GEDmatch users. Dozens of topic threads are available to help you learn as much as you can.

Please acknowledge that you authorize this data to be made available for comparisons in our public database:  
(You will not be able to make comparisons if it is not in the public database)

☐ Yes  
☒ No

### One-to-many DNA comparison

Enter your kit number:

Select the threshold of the largest segment to be included in the list :  
and whether it is based on Autosomal or X  
Selecting less than 7 cM may result in much slower response.

☒ Autosomal  
☐ X

7

Click here to display your results: [Display Results](#)

[GEDmatch] Tools for DNA & Genealogy Research	
Forum / Group	Threads
<b>GEDmatch Forums</b>	
A place to ask questions and exchange information	
<a href="#">General Forum Information</a>	1
<a href="#">General Interest Items</a>	501
<b>Genealogy</b>	
<a href="#">Uploading GEDCOMs</a>	5
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<a href="#">Chromosome Browser</a>	10
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<a href="#">People who match one or both of two kits</a>	22

Members also run ancestor projects you can join and follow on the forums. These projects put you into closer contact with others researching the same place, surname or ancestor. Even if you don't have a connection to the subject being discussed, the information can be

enlightening. You can learn a lot about analysis and DNA projects by reading what others have done. The GEDmatch wiki and DNA for Dummies link are also helpful for those starting out in DNA research. ■

» Shannon Combs-Bennett

## Star-Spangled Ancestry

With the summer sun shining and the Fourth of July upon us, we celebrate the fireworks in our family tree—our patriotic forebears—with these reader-submitted photos.

My great-great-grandmother Elizabeth Welch Hamilton is seated on the left next to her sister Mary Jane Welch Bagley. Elizabeth's daughter MaryBell Hamilton is standing in the back. This picture was taken in Clinton, Iowa, about 1902 to 1907, based on the flag with 45 stars. » **Pam Greene, Indianapolis, Ind.**



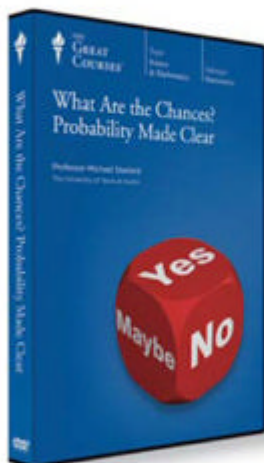
These are my grandparents, John Frank and Janie Powell, probably in the 1960s in Powell County, Ky. They had five sons fighting in WWII at the same time, and one son in the Korean War. All came home, lived long lives and remained very patriotic. » **Sondra Powell, Nashville, Tenn.**



My mother, Alice Jean Macdonald, was in a play about Betsy Ross in 1932. She played the part of Betsy, sewing the American flag. At the time she was attending Washington Elementary School in Eureka, Calif., and would've been 11 or 12. » **Kay Welch, via email**



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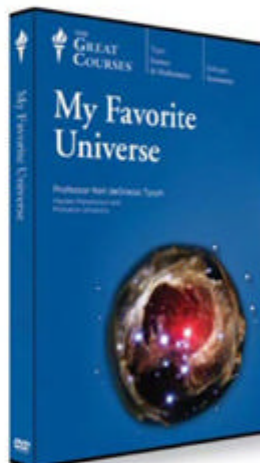
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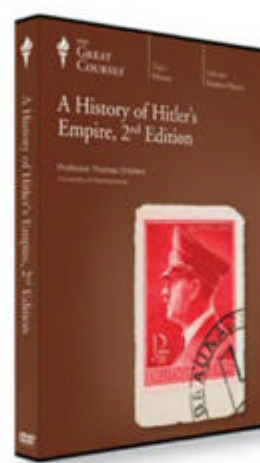
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A sepia-toned photograph of a vintage desk. On the desk is a typewriter, a rotary telephone, a white ink bottle with a quill pen, a stack of papers, and a small sign that reads 'GenSmarts Automated Genealogy Research'. In the background, there is a wooden cabinet with a radio and a vase of flowers.

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